

SOME THINGS ABOUT
COVENTRY-BENTON
NEW HAMPSHIRE.

BY
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No......

PREFACE.

This volume does not purport to be a complete and exhaustive history of the town of Coventry-Benton. It is simply a collection of some things connected with its history. It is a small town, one of the smallest in the state. During all its life it has been one of the typical back-towns, but there are many now living in other towns and other states who cherish a strong love for it as the place of their birth and early life. The collection and weaving together of the facts and traditions contained in this volume has been a source of recreation to the author, and if the sons and daughters of the town find a source of pleasure in the perusal of its pages he will be amply repaid for time and labor spent. Only two hundred copies of the book have been printed. The work has been done at odd times in a village printing establishment, and the fact that the printer has kept pace with the writer, distributing his type whenever eight or sixteen pages were printed, may be made the excuse for the page and more of errata at the end of the volume, and for typographical errors which have passed the proofreader unnoticed. The volume makes no pretension to literary style or finish, but the author believes it contains much valuable historical material which is worthy of preservation. He offers the book, without apology, for what it is, not a town history, but "Some Things about Coventry-Benton, N. H.

Woodsville, N. H., September, 1905.

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Some Things About Coventry—Benton, N. H.

CHAPTER I.

THE PROPRIETARY.

In the early part of the decade between 1760 and 1770, His Excellency, Benning Wentworth, Esquire, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Province of New Hampshire, George the Third, By the Grace of God, of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, etc., would have been an exceedingly busy official had he given personal attention and superintendence to his official acts. During these years he granted charters to some scores of townships, lying in what is now the northern part of the state of New Hampshire, and the north-eastern part of Vermont, opening the way for the settlement of what was an unknown country until the close of the so-called French and Indian wars, a decade before. The charter of Haverhill was granted May 18, 1763, and its settlement began immediately. The township of Warren was granted a little later, July 14, 1763, and this was followed by the issue of a charter to the township of Peeling, now Woodstock, September 24, in the same year. Rumney had been chartered in 1761, as had also the towns of Orford and Lyme, to the south of Haverhill, and Bath and Lyman to the north. The charters granted had taken in the territory in the Connecticut and

Baker's river valleys, of which some knowledge had been gained by soldiers participating in the wars of the decade before, and by hunters, trappers and an exploring expedition or two. After these grants had been made in 1763, Governor Wentworth's geographers made the discovery that there was an ungranted territory lying to the east of Haverhill, and to the west of Peeling (Woodstock) which had not been disposed of; and so, January 31, 1764, he granted to Theophilus Fitch and sixty-four others, a new township by the good old English name of Coventry, which, by the terms of the charter, was "bounded and butted" as follows: "Beginning at the south-easterly corner bounds of the town of Haverhill, thence running south fifty-eight degrees east six miles and one-half mile, thence north twenty-four degrees east, seven miles and three-quarters of a mile, thence north fifty-five degrees west, about six miles to the north-westerly corner of Haverhill aforesaid, then south twenty-five degrees west by Haverhill aforesaid to the bounds begun at."

The charter contained the usual provisions: Whenever the township should have fifty families resident and settled therein, it should have the liberty of holding two fairs annually; a market might also be opened and kept one or more days each week as might be thought most advantageous to the inhabitants; the first meeting for the choice of town officers should "be held on the second Tuesday of March next" and the said meeting should be notified by Theophilus Fitch, Esq., who was appointed the moderator of the first meeting. There were also the usual charter conditions, viz.:

"1st. That every grantee, his heirs or assigns, shall plant and cultivate five acres of land within the term of five

years, for every fifty acres contained in his or their shares or proportion of land in said township, and to continue to improve and settle the same by additional cultivations on penalty of the forfeiture of his grant or share in the township and of its reverting to us, our heirs and successors, to be, by us or them, re-granted to such of our subjects as shall effectually settle and cultivate the same.—

“2nd. That all white and other pine trees within the said township fit for making our royal navy be carefully preserved for that use and none to be cut or felled, until our special license for so doing first had and obtained, upon the penalty of the forfeiture of the right of such grantee, his heirs and assigns, to us, our heirs and successors, as well as being subject to the penalty of any acts of Parliament that now are, or hereafter shall be enacted.—

“3rd. That before any division of the land be made to and among the grantees, a tract of land as near the center of the said township as the land will admit of, shall be reserved and run out for town lots, one of which shall be allowed to each grantee, of the contents of one acre.—

“4th. Yielding and paying therefor, to us, our heirs and successors, for the space of ten years, to be completed from the date hereof, the rent of one ear of Indian corn only, on the twenty-fifth day of December, 1764.—

“5th. Every proprietor, settler or inhabitant shall yield and pay unto us, our heirs and successors, yearly and every year forever from and after the expiration of ten years from the aforesaid 25th day of December, namely, on the 25th day of December in the year of our Lord 1774, one shilling proclamation money for every hundred acres, he so owns or possesses, and so in proportion for a greater or less tract of said land,—which money shall be paid by the respective per-

sons aforesaid, their heirs or assigns, in our Council Chamber in Portsmouth, or to such officer or officers as shall be appointed to receive the same, and this to be in lieu of all other rents and services whatsoever."

The names of the sixty-five grantees were :

Theophilus Fitch, Esq.	John Fancher
Eliphalet Sealey	James Banks
David Stevens	Joshua Ambler
Amos Weed	Samuel Weed
Benjamin Weed	Isaac Weed
Peter Weed	Ebenezer Hoit
Hezekiah Weed	Josiah Waterbury
Joseph Davenport	Gideon Leeds
Samuel Cressey	Obadiah Sealey
Deodate Davenport	Ebenezer Schofield
Isaac Armsdale	Samuel Belding
Ephraim Smith	James Smith
John Bettis	Jesse Smith
Peter Husted	Samuel Bowton
Jehiel Bowton	Zebulon Husted
David St. John	Joseph Ambler
Charles Smith	John Bates
Abraham Weed	Reuben Weed
Nathaniel Loundsbury	Abner Stevens
Obadiah Stevens	Obadiah Stevens, Jr.
Nathaniel Weed	Eleazer Bowton, Jr.
Eliphalet Sealey, Jr.	Wix Sealey
Sylvanus Sealey	Silas Hoit
William Fancher	Daniel Benedict
Nathaniel Hoit	Enos Weed
Theophilus Hanford	Hezekiah Davenport
Nathaniel Waterbury	James Schofield

James Bates	Thomas Seymour, Jr.
John Fancher, Jr.	Sylvanus Weed
Matthew Fountain	Joseph Lockwood
Adonijah Brown	Mark H. Wentworth, Esq.
Theodore Atkinson, Esq.	Theodore Atkinson, Jr., Esq.
The Hon. John Temple, Esq.	

Aside from these sixty-five shares there were granted four other equal shares :

One for the Incorporated Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts :

One for a Glebe for the Church of England as by law established :

One for the first settled minister of the gospel, and

One for the benefit of the schools in said town.

Thrifty Benning Wentworth also took care that in the granting of townships he himself should be provided for, and so he reserved for himself five hundred acres in the north-west corner of the town, which was to be accounted as two shares. His own immediate and official household was also provided for by making The Hon. John Temple, Esq., Theodore Atkinson, Theodore Atkinson, Jr. Secretary of the Province, and Mark H. Wentworth, Esq., a relative, four of the sixty-five individual grantees.

The township thus granted was ample in territory, but it was not territory attractive to settlers. It contained Moosilauke, Sugar Loaf, Black, Owl's Head and Blueberry mountains. There were corners and patches of territory next to Warren line, along the Oliverian, in what were afterwards called Coventry Meadows, at the foot of Sugar Loaf, and the base of Blueberry mountain next Haverhill line, and a strip of territory running along the north part of the town next to Landaff line, and a little way up the three

streams afterwards called Whitcher Brook, Davis Brook and Tunnel Stream which were capable of settlement, but the remainder of the 24,000 more or less acres in the township was mountain and nearly one-seventh of the entire township was inaccessible to the hardy surveyors of the latter part of the eighteenth century, and was never divided into lots, but remained for a century or more undivided non-resident lands, appearing in the investigation made in recent years only as shares of the original proprietors.

Warren, Haverhill and Landaff were quite early and quite rapidly settled, but the settling of Coventry through the one hundred and forty years of its history has been slow, and for the past fifty years has been at a standstill,—more, the settlements of earlier years are reverting again to forests.

Just who the original grantees were, from what section or town they hailed, just why Governor Wentworth gave Theophilus Fitch, Esquire, the eleven Weeds, the Sealeys, Smiths, Stevens, Husteds, Davenports and Fanchers a township does not appear, but so far as can be learned, they never went to Coventry, but sold their rights or shares in the township to others.

It was not till just prior to the war of the Revolution that any settlements were made in the town, and these were few, and were all on the Coventry Meadows, so called, and near the Warren line, until the beginning of the 19th century when settlements were begun in the north part of the town.

These settlers held their lands by titles somewhat precarious, as the grantees and their assigns and successors made few attempts to protect their interests and realize on their holdings until 1797, when they held the first meeting of which record exists at the inn of Amasa Scott in Haverhill, April 12, in that year. It appears from the record

of that meeting that the ownership of the shares in the township had by that time passed into hands other than those of the original grantees. The seventy-one shares, including the Governor's reservation, were represented as follows: Nathaniel Peabody, by Nathaniel Webber as agent, 34 rights or shares; Obadiah Eastman, 4; Josiah Burnham, 9; Jonathan Hale, by A. Nixon agent, 9; Reuben Page, 3; John Weed, by Salmon Niles agent, 1; John W. Chandler, 7; Mark H. Wentworth, by Ben Porter atty., 2; Onesiphorous Flanders, 1, in all, seventy rights or shares.

Hon. John Winthrop Chandler, of Peacham, Vt., was chosen moderator of this meeting and Obadiah Eastman, Esq., of Coventry, clerk. That proprietors had held previous meetings somewhere appears from the fact that John W. Chandler, Maj. Moody Bedel and Obadiah Eastman, Esq. were made a committee to examine into the appropriations and expenditure of monies previously made, and to examine and settle all demands against the proprietary for services and expenditures. It was also voted that the monies advanced by Joseph Pearson for the redemption of the town, which had been sold for the county tax in 1795, be considered a just charge against the proprietary. Provision was made for roads, one from Haverhill through Coventry Meadows to Warren town line, a road which had been surveyed in 1796, and another called "The North and South road", to to be constructed from Warren town line to Landaff town line, a road which was surveyed by Maj. Caleb Willard in September, 1797. A tax of four dollars and fifty cents on each proprietor's right was levied for the purpose of building these roads, and the meeting was adjourned until Sept. 19, 1797.

The proprietors held meetings with greater or less fre-

quency until surveys had been made so far as practicable, the last meeting of which a record was made being held July 4, 1818.

Some of the most important votes passed at these various meetings were :

Sept. 19, 1797. Voted that an account exhibited by Obadiah Eastman, Esq. for sundry services done in behalf of said proprietors in the years 1788, 1789, 1790 and 1794, be allowed, amounting to thirteen pounds, sixteen shillings, £13, 16s. Voted likewise that another account be allowed to the aforesaid Eastman for labor on the road, and for other services done in the year 1796 amounting to thirteen pounds, twelve and nine pence, £13, 12s 9d.

Sept. 20, 1797. Voted, that John W. Chandler and Obadiah Eastman Esquires and Artemas Nixon be a committee to receive and examine claims to lands of all persons settled in said township, the rights said pitches have been made under, the time of pitching, settling and the improvements made on each settlement, the claims and merits of each claimant, and that each claimant make out a return of all lands so claimed, by length of line and point of compass, commencing each with some known and established boundary and monument and file the same with the clerk of said proprietary on or before the second Tuesday of June next.

Voted, that each person who has not pitched any land to his right or rights in said town have liberty to pitch one hundred and five acres to each right at any time previous to the last day of February next, and not after. Said pitches to be made under the direction of the committee before mentioned, and the persons who neglect to make their pitches as aforesaid shall have one hundred and five acres of land drawn to

each right, in lieu of the pitch above mentioned by such persons, and in such manner as shall be hereinafter mentioned.

“Voted, that the return of a road leading from Warren to Landaff through the town of Coventry made and surveyed by Major Caleb Willard, dated the 11th day of September, A. D. 1797, be accepted by the meeting and be considered as a direction for the road committee in the expenditure of one-half the monies voted for making and repairing highways.”

June 14, 1798. At this meeting Obadiah Eastman, Henry Gerrish and John W. Chandler were chosen a committee to lay out the town into one hundred acre lots. And it was voted, that the committee complete a survey of the first division of one hundred acre lots in said town already begun, and that they immediately afterwards go on and make a second division of hundred acre lots, and that they proceed to make such other and further divisions of the lands in said town into hundred acre lots, or into fifty acre lots, as in their discretion may be most beneficial to the proprietors, with the addition of five acres to each hundred acre lot, and two and a half acres to each fifty acre lot, for the purpose of highways.

June 15, 1798. “Voted, that Samuel Mastin, Moses Noyes, Samuel Eaton, Barnabas Niles, Joseph Lund, Jehiel Niles, Onesiphorus Flanders, Ezekiel Chapman and Ephraim Lund and their assignees, heirs, etc., be quieted in the possession of the several lots of land as stated in the report of the committee appointed to receive and examine the claims of settlers.”

January 17, 1799. “Voted, that the account of Col. Henry Gerrish, for surveying the town of Coventry in October, 1798, be allowed, amounting to \$30.65, and the account of

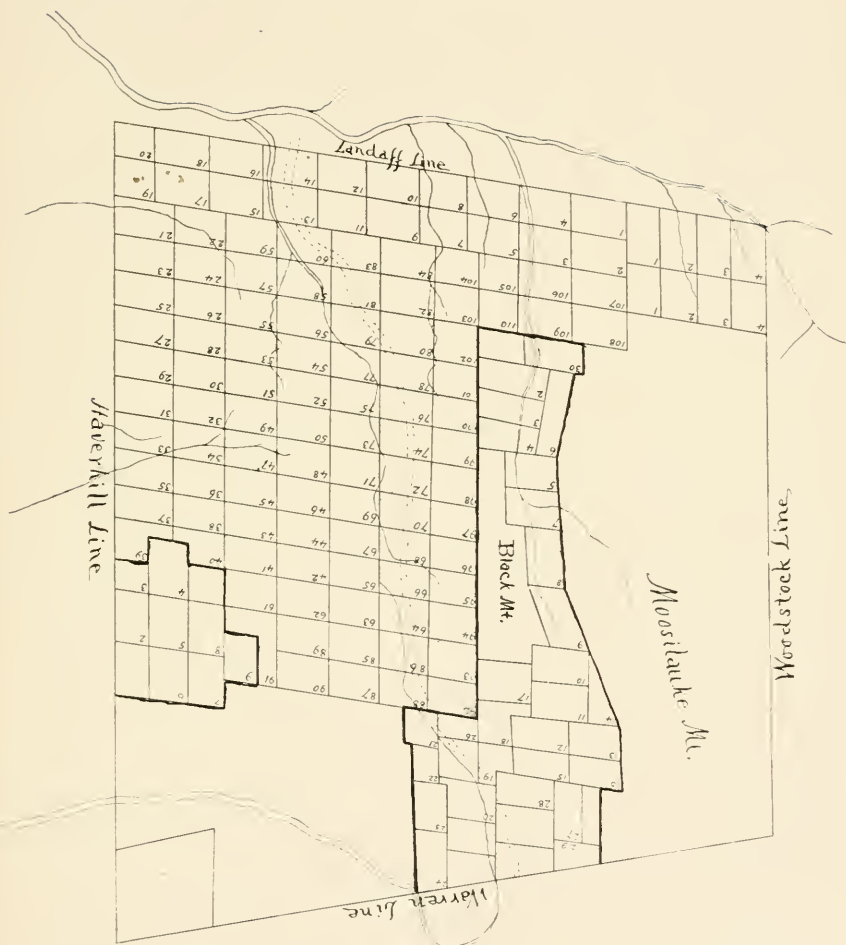
John W. Chandler, amounting to \$29.67, for the same service be also allowed."

January 18, 1799. "Voted, that Alden Sprague, Jona. Hale, Esquires, and Stephen P. Webster be a committee to investigate and establish the boundary line between Haverhill and Coventry, also that Jonathan Hale be added to the committee to complete the survey of the town.

"Voted, that Alden Sprague, John W. Chandler and Stephen P. Webster be a committee to petition the General Court for abatement of state taxes now existing against the town of Coventry.

"Voted, that Obadiah Eastman be allowed \$49.25 for services of himself and hands in lotting out the town of Coventry, boarding the surveyors and hands, keeping their horses, procuring spirits, etc., as per bill." [At this meeting additional accounts were also allowed to Stephen P. Webster, Obadiah Eastman, Nathaniel Webber, Onesiphorus Flanders, Jonathan Hale, Reuben Page, Joseph Pearson, John W. Chandler and Artemas Nixon, amounting to \$105.95 for services in surveying, warning the proprietary meeting, tavern expenses, etc.].

May 28, 1800. "Voted, that John W. Chandler, Jona. Hale and John W. Tillotson, Esquires, be a committee vested with discretionary powers to lay a statement of facts before the General Court at its next session relative to an encroachment of the town of Warren upon the town of Coventry, in consequence of the doings of a committee appointed by the General Court to determine the boundary lines between the following towns, viz. Piermont, Orford, Wentworth and Warren, and request to know if it was the intention of said Court that the boundary lines of said Coventry should be affected by the proceedings of said committee."



Earliest plan of Coventry. Caleb Willard's Survey, 10 lots next to Haverhill line, made July, 1786. Colonel Gerrish's Survey, the 110 lots in centre of town, made in 1798. John McDuffie's Survey, the lots on the east, enclosed in heavy lines, made in 1799. The plan also outlines the various brooks and streams, and the north and south road through centre of town.

[This committee doubtless attended to the duty assigned them, but it does not appear that they were able to reverse the decision of the committee above mentioned appointed by the General Court. The charter line between Warren and Coventry was south 58 degrees east, but Warren, by the decision of the General Court committee, overlapped the original charter line so that the new line between Warren and Coventry ran south 74 degrees and 30 minutes east, and this was never changed. Warren thus obtained several hundred acres from the originally chartered Coventry, much of which has since proved to be valuable timber land.]

February 3, 1803. "Voted, that the plan of survey made by John McDuffie of certain lots of land lying in the town of Coventry, under the direction of Obadiah Eastman, Esquire, be accepted.

"Voted, that the plan of certain lots of land surveyed by Caleb Willard and known by the name of Willard's survey be accepted.

"Voted, that James Masters, James Curtis, Robert Whitton, Samuel Marston, Moses Noyes, Onesiphorus Flanders, Samuel Eaton, Barnabas Niles, Joseph Lund, Ezekiel Chapman, Ephraim Lund, Pelatiah Watson and Samuel Jackson, their heirs and assigns be quieted and confirmed in the possession of the several tracts of land that have been heretofore voted to them."

At a meeting which had been called by the proprietors and held at the tavern of Dr. Amasa Scott in Haverhill February 29, 1804, Obadiah Eastman was chosen moderator and William Coolidge clerk. The following shares or rights were represented; Moor Russel, 4; Simeon Eastman, 2; Obadiah Eastman, 4; Nathaniel Webber, 6; Stephen Couch, 1; John Montgomery, 1; Jona. Hale, by his attor-

ney, William Coolidge, 10 ; in all 30 shares. This comparatively small number of shares represented, and the change in ownership from the date of the first meeting, heretofore mentioned, in 1797, is explained by the fact that, during the intervening seven years, most of the lands which the surveyors had been able to reach had been divided into lots, each shareholder or proprietor obtaining his lots in fee ; the claims of first settlers, because of pitches made, had been settled and clouds on their titles removed ; and during the previous year, 1803, a town government had been organized. The meeting, however, was an important one. It ratified, established and confirmed the first and second division of hundred acre lots, it authorized the laying out a road through the north part of the town embracing the road from Porter's ferry and the old court house in Haverhill and from Wells River to the road which was already travelled through the north-east part of Coventry to Portland, or in such other direction toward Peeling as might be judged most beneficial to the public. Obadiah Eastman, Jonathan Hale and James Eastman were made a committee to lay out the road. It was also voted to pay the amount of an execution which had been obtained against the proprietors in favor of Chase Whitcher of Warren. At an adjourned meeting, however, held May 2, 1805, it was unanimously resolved that the suit against Chase Whitcher for encroachment on the lands of the proprietors be revived and prosecuted.

At another adjourned meeting, held December 20, 1805, two hundred and twenty-five acres of land were granted to William Coolidge upon condition that the said Coolidge within three years from the first day of January, 1806, "should build, erect and complete a good and sufficient grist-mill upon the Gulph Stream (afterwards called

Whitcher Brook) running through lot numbered thirteen, in Gerrish's survey, and keep the same in good repair and procure, or give good attendance therein, during the term of ten years from the erection and completion of said mill, to the acceptance of the selectmen of the town of Coventry, aforesaid, for the time being."

At a meeting held at the tavern of Nancy Hale, in Coventry, June 16, 1814, Thatcher Goddard and Onesiphorus Flanders were appointed a committee to make a division of the common land lying between Gerrish's, McDuffie's and Willard's surveys and Warren line, this land having been surveyed into lots of thirty-five acres each. A plan of this division was made, known as the third division, and was accepted at an adjourned meeting held May 29, 1816, thus completing the surveys and divisions of land by the proprietors.

The meetings subsequently held by the proprietors were chiefly for the purpose of settling up the affairs of the proprietary. The last meeting of which record exists was held July 4, 1818, and at this meeting a tax of two dollars and fifty cents was levied on each share of the undivided lands for the purpose of paying the debts of the proprietary. The entire amount expended by the proprietors in protecting their rights in the township, in surveying and dividing into lots such of the territory as was surveyable, in paying the expenses of proprietors' meetings, through a term of twenty years, in redeeming lands sold for taxes, in defending and prosecuting lawsuits and in surveying and constructing highways was a little upwards of \$4,000. For this they had obtained in regularly numbered surveyed lots of land including grants and pitches by settlers and the Governor's reservation, some 22,000 acres, leaving about eight thousand acres undi-

vided. This was in two tracts, a small one on the easterly side of Black Mountain, and a larger one, of from six thousand to seven thousand acres, on the sides and summit of Moosilauke Mountain. This land was never divided into lots, but was held by various parties, as shares or rights in the names of the original proprietors, was taxed as non-resident, until about 1889 or 1890, when all the shares had been acquired by Ira Witcher, of Haverhill, a native of the town, who divided the territory into four tracts, numbered one, two, three and four, and later sold them as such tracts.

The records of the meeting of the early proprietors show an earnest effort on their part to secure a settlement of the township, and to realize something from their rights. But the task of making a flourishing farming town out of Coventry was an impossible one, and the proprietors doubtless expended nearly as much money in their attempts to make the township a valuable property as they ever secured in return. Only a few of those who were proprietors previous to 1800 ever attempted to make a settlement in the town; Jonathan Hale, Obadiah Eastman, and Samuel Marston.

It was a non-resident proprietary, and absentee landlordism rarely pays, even under favorable conditions.

Some of these non-resident proprietors, however, were greatly interested in the town, and merit more than a passing notice. John W. Chandler, of Peacham, Vt., was the son of Gen. John Chandler, a Revolutionary soldier, and was born in Newtown, Conn., in 1767. He removed to Peacham, Vt., with his father as one of the earliest settlers in that town. He was representative to the General Assembly in 1797, Judge of Probate from 1797-1800 and in 1806, 1808, 1809, 1817-1821; Register of Probate in 1805; Councillor in

1814-1815; Judge of the County Court in 1800-1806, 1813-1817. Died in Peacham July 15, 1855.

Reuben Page was a younger brother of John Page, of Haverhill. He was born in Rindge, N. H., in 1753. He served in five campaigns in the Revolutionary war. Went to Corinth, Vt., in 1780 and settled in the northeast corner of the town. Part of the farm is in Newbury. He died August 3, 1843 and is buried in the "Grow burying ground," in the southwest corner of Newbury, Vt.

Stephen P. Webster, of Haverhill, was a son of Rev. Stephen Webster, of Haverhill, Mass., and Mary (Little). Graduated at Harvard in 1792. Married Mary Peabody of Atkinson. State Senator, 1803-1806. Councillor, 1839-40.

CHAPTER II.

THE FIRST SETTLEMENT.

Just when and where the first settlement was made in Coventry, and just who was the first settler does not appear. There were several settlements made prior to the year 1800, as appears from the record of settlers claims allowed by the proprietors at their meetings in 1798, 1799 and 1800.

At a meeting of the proprietors January 18, 1799, Ephraim, Rachel and Silas Lund were quieted in the possession of 76 acres of land on the Oliverian, which they claimed had been settled in 1777, and this same year Josiah Burnham, whose attempted survey of a part of the town had never been accepted by the proprietors, was also quieted in the possession of 82 acres, on his claim that he had settled and improved the same in 1777. Pelatiah Watson had also settled adjoining Burnham and the Lunds in 1778, and he obtained at this same meeting possession of 40 acres, as did Stephen Lund 82 acres in the same locality, which he claimed was settled in 1783. In the absence of other testimony it may be set down as tolerably certain that the Lunds, with Burnham and Watson, were the first settlers of the township, and that they made pitches and began to establish homes in the year 1777. Jonathan Hale had also begun a settlement in the immediate vicinity a little later, and had obtained large grants from the proprietary. In 1783 he purchased the Stephen Lund tract, in the same year the Ephraim, Silas and Rachael holdings; in 1784 the Pelatiah Watson tract, and in 1787 he bought out Burnham's rights. This gave him a tract, much of which was improved, of upwards of a thous-

and acres, which he conveyed to Thatcher Goddard in 1800, though he continued to live on it for many years as an inn-keeper, in a house on the Coventry Meadows road between what is now known as the Hyde farm and the farm owned by James Crimmings, and which was known at first as the Niles farm.

The antecedents of the Lunds, Watson and Burnham are unknown, and where they went after leaving Coventry is, except in the case of Burnham, purely a matter of conjecture. Burnham, who had some knowledge of surveying, came early to the town, pitched a lot for himself, and made surveys of other lots, but the surveys were not recognized as valid by the proprietors. The year 1805 found him in the jail at Haverhill, imprisoned for debt. Among those who occupied the same room with him in the jail were Russell Freeman, Esq., and Capt. Joseph Starkweather, likewise imprisoned for debt. On the evening of December 17, 1805, a quarrel arose between them, the result of which was that both men were fatally stabbed by Burnham, his weapon being a large double edged knife which he had carried with him when he went to jail. Burnham was tried and convicted of murder and sentenced to be hung July 15, 1806, but the date was subsequently changed to August 12, in order that he might "have further time to prepare for death." His execution, which occurred at Haverhill, and which was the second occurring in Grafton county, was one of the great events of the time. It occurred on Powder House hill at Haverhill corner in the presence of 10,000 people, who had gathered from near and far to witness the gruesome spectacle. Entertainment was rare in those early days, and the most was made of this one. Previous to the execution a lengthy sermon, preceded by music and prayer,

was delivered to the assembled multitude by the Rev. David Sutherland of Bath, the victim about to be launched into eternity furnishing the preacher with his most vivid illustrations.

Barnabas Niles and his son Salmon settled on the Meadows, somewhere about 1778, just to the north of the settlements made by Ephraim Lund, Stephen Lund, Burnham and Watson, their farm being what is now known as the Hyde farm. To the south were Joseph Lund, James Ford, Jehiel Niles and Elisha Ford, on land now known as the James Crimmings and A. L. Warren farms, while a little later Robert Elliott established himself also on the Meadows near Haverhill line.

Almost coincident with these first settlements on the Meadows were those made next to Warren line and near the base of Moosilauke, in the neighborhood afterwards known as High Street, by Obadiah Eastman, Samuel Marston, Moses Noyes and Samuel Jackson. Each of these settlements was made prior to 1790, those of Obadiah Eastman, Moses Noyes and Samuel Jackson being presumably the oldest. Obadiah Eastman, with his sons, established themselves on what was afterwards known as the Lathrop farm, on the North and South road, so called, about a mile from Warren line. This farm came to be one of the best in town, but has been abandoned for nearly fifty years, and the substantial stone walls once surrounding its fields and pastures now surround a vigorous forest growth. The buildings have long since vanished, but a recent visit to the spot where they once stood, shows an acre or two of land still free from forest growth, the cellar walls still intact, a few feet from the house cellar the smoke-house cellar (about five by six feet) with walls in nearly as good condition as when Squire

Obadiah constructed them nearly a century ago, and the walls of the various yards about the barn and the out-buildings still in good condition.

The settlement lot of Moses Noyes, and the two lots of Samuel Jackson, were nearer Warren line than the Eastman homestead, and covered the territory now known as the Dickey farm, and the farm next north-west, toward Warren Summit. Samuel Marston settled the farm which later came into the possession of Jonathan Welch and his sons, Silas and Bartlett Welch. Marston came to Coventry from Chichester, and two of his sons, David and Jonathan, were among the first settlers of the north part of Coventry, about 1804 or 1805, while another son, Joseph E., remained for a time on the old homestead. Samuel Jackson purchased his one hundred acre lot in 1783, of one Francis Porter, of Peterborough, and paid for it one hundred dollars. His purchase was made in good faith, and he began its settlement immediately, and had made for himself a comfortable homestead, when, in 1800, he discovered his title was worthless, and he petitioned the proprietors for relief. They gave him a title to his land, in view of the improvements he had made, at a meeting held May 23, 1800.

Aside from these settlers on the Meadows and at High Street, clearings had been made and homes established near Haverhill line at the foot of the mountain lying between Owls Head and Sugar Loaf. A survey of ten one hundred acre lots had been made there by Major Caleb Willard for Gen. John W. Chandler, of Peacham, by order of Samuel Atkinson, dated July 9, 1786. In the same year James Masters, James Curtis and Robert Whittom settled on lots numbered 6, 7, and 8. This section was subsequently known as the "Page Neighborhood," or "Page District."

None of these settlers remained many years in town, and the work of settlement they had begun was carried on by others.

Of these early settlers who established themselves in town prior to 1800, there were two or three who took an active part in the direction of affairs: Salmon Niles, born March 11, 1768, the son of Barnabas Niles, came to town with his father, and took a leading part, both in his own right and as representing others, in the meetings of the proprietary, and also, after the town government was organized, filled various town offices with efficiency. Of his eight children born in town, none remained there, and, early in the century, his farm passed into other hands.

Major Jonathan Hale, of whom mention has previously been made in the chapter on the proprietary, and whose farm on the Meadows was the largest in town, and whose house was one of the notable inns on the road between Haverhill and Plymouth, was born in Bradford, Mass., about 1740, the youngest son of Jonathan and Susanna (Tuttle) Hale. His family was a notable one. His eldest brother, Dr. John Hale, was a physician at Hollis, N. H., and was a surgeon in the Old French war and in the Revolutionary war. His sister, Abigail, married Col. William Prescott, of Pepperell, Mass., who commanded the Massachusetts troops at Bunker Hill. The historian Prescott was their grandson. His brother, Dr. Samuel Hale, came to Newbury, Vt., as one of the earliest settlers, and his sister, Martha, was the wife of the Rev. Peter Powers, the first minister of Newbury and Haverhill. Jonathan Hale removed with his parents to Sutton, Mass., and later lived in Concord, N. H., from whence he came, to the Coos country at the time of the early settlement of Haverhill and Newbury. During the war of the Revolution he was a member of the Committee of Safety

of Haverhill. He was also 2nd Major in Col. Morey's twelfth New Hampshire regiment of foot, his commission dating from 1775. In 1781 he was sent by Gen. Jacob Bailey to West Point with dispatches for Washington. Mr. F. P. Wells, the historian of Newbury, Vt., thinks that at that time he lived in that town. He continued to reside in Coventry after he had sold his farm to Thatcher Goddard, in 1800, but took no important part in town affairs after the organization of the town government. He died in 1837, at an advanced age, and if anything can be judged from the tax list, he must have been in somewhat reduced circumstances. While in 1833 he was still assessed for 140 acres of land, with a horse and chaise and three cows, in 1836 his taxable property consisted of a horse valued at \$10 and three cows valued at \$50. Major Hale was, however, a man of superior education for his times, and his services to the proprietary of Coventry, and to the early settlers, was of first importance. Little is known of his family, except that one daughter, Mary Hale, born Nov. 23, 1777, became the wife of William Coolidge, Esq., one of the very earliest settlers at the north part of the town, and for the first years of its organized history prominent in town affairs. He had three other daughters, Nancy, Susanna and Hitty.

Obadiah Eastman was undoubtedly the leading man in town affairs, both in securing the division of the town into lots, in encouraging its settlement, in building roads, in protecting the rights of the proprietors against the encroachment of Haverhill and Warren, as well as of individuals, in securing the organization of a town government, and, in short, doing anything and everything to promote the interests of the town to which he so thoroughly devoted his best endeavors. He was the first Justice of the Peace of the

town, appointed in 1789, the moderator of the first town meeting, a member of the first board of selectmen, the first to represent the town in the General Court, when Coventry and Warren constituted a representative district, indeed, it is no disparagement to others to call him the first citizen of Coventry in its early days. He was born in Amesbury(?), Mass., May 7, 1747. His wife, Mehitabel, was born April 27, in the same year, and they were married Nov. 19, 1767. Mr. Eastman rendered good service in the war of the Revolution, and came to Coventry and established his home sometime before the close of the war. He reared a family of eight children, five sons and three daughters, and he alone of the earliest settlers has descendants still residing in town. He died Jan 10, 1812, and was buried in the High Street cemetery. A marble monument was in recent years erected over his grave, which has also been marked by the Sons of the American Revolution with the insignia of the Society.

Some idea of the number of inhabitants of the town in 1789 may be gathered from the petition sent to the General Court, Dec. 11, 1788, asking for the appointment of Mr. Eastman as a Justice of the Peace. The petition states that the signers are "a greater part of the inhabitants of Coventry," and it is signed by Ephraim Lund, Jeremiah Brown, Robert Elliott, Daniel Doty, Onesiphorus Flanders, Josiah Burnham, Joseph Flanders, Timothy Lockwood, John Marston, Ebenezer Bailey, Samuel Bowdy, Nathan Mead and Silas Lund. All these signers were residents on the Meadows, at High Street, or on the Willard survey tract, no settlement having been made in the north part of the town.

During the war of the Revolution none of the settlers, so far as is known, entered the army, but the straggling and

struggling settlers endeavored to do their patriotic duty as the following extract from Hammond's Town Papers shows :

“To the Hon'ble Gen'l Court of the State of New Hampshire, now sitting at Portsmouth.

“Humbly show that the inhabitants of Coventry in said State, that when called on, they hired one Jacob Whittier and one Edward Clark to serve as soldiers of said town in the Continental army during the war, and gave them a generous bounty—that said town is so far removed from the seat of government, and not organized with town officers, never made a regular return of them, and that there is an extent now against them for delinquency, wherefore, your petitioners pray that they may be credited with said Whittier and Clark, and have an order to discharge said extent, and your petitioners as in duty shall ever pray, etc.

Feb. 1786.

(Signed) MOSES DOW,

in behalf of said town.”

Proof of the services of Edward Clark was furnished, and the town was allowed therefor the sum of £60.

The census of 1790 gives the population of the town as 80.

There seems to have been no hurry on the part of pioneer settlers in locating in the north part of the town, which, however, subsequently became, and still remains, the most important section of the township. The forests were heavy, the soil was in the main rocky, the surface was hilly, the slope of the land was to the north, and the section was without roads, and miles removed from the settlements in the south and west part of the town, and from the center of North Country life at Haverhill. One of the characters of the section during the early part of the last century, Ben Wiser, who lived by fishing, hunting and his wits, and many of whose stories and sayings are still remembered by

the older people, once remarked of North Coventry : "When the Almighty made the world, he made a will. He gave over all the country east of Swiftwater to the fowls of the air and the wild beasts, and the Whitechers, Tylers, Howes and Marstons, who broke that will, will never prosper." There was, however, some degree of prosperity, but it was prosperity won by dint of the sternest sacrifice and the most unremitting toil.

When the first town meeting was held, Dec. 30, 1801, for the purpose of organizing a town government, there were no residents on the north side of the town, but in the years intervening between 1804 and 1812 several settlements were made, the first being by William Coolidge, William Whitcher, David Marston and Jonathan Marston, followed soon after by Kimball Tyler, Jesse Tyler, Peter Howe, Daniel Howe, Daniel Noyes and Abraham Norris. Of the thirty-three rateable polls found on the first recorded tax list in 1812, these eleven above mentioned had established for themselves homes in the north part of the town.

William Coolidge, son-in-law of Jonathan Hale, settled in 1803 or 1804, and cleared his farm from the virgin forest, on land which is now a part of the farms of George Bailey and Birt Cox. He was the one settler of the town of liberal education, as the proprietors' records and the early town records, in elegant handwriting, orthography and punctuation, so rare in early town records, abundantly attest. He was clerk at many meetings of the proprietors, the first town clerk, and for several years one of the selectmen. He built and operated the first grist-mill in town, and a few years since the circular mill stones were to be seen in the yard of the clapboard mill of the late William Eastman. He was born January 28, 1777, and his wife, Mary

Hale was born the same year. None of his four children, three sons and one daughter, remained in town, but removed with their parents in 1816 to Vermont. His mill privilege and the land lying to the east of it, being what is now known as the Annis farm, he purchased of John W. Chandler in 1804, and removed to it, erecting a house on the North and South road, near the meeting, house some three years later. This property he sold upon his removal from town to Moses Knight, of Landaff. It had become by that time considerably improved, the price obtained being \$1325. He rendered the town great service, but during the hard times following the war of 1812 became financially involved and lost most of his property, acquired with so much self sacrifice and hardship. Mr. Coolidge was a native of Middlesex county, Mass., his immediate family residing, during the war of the Revolution, in Waltham.

David Marston, son of Samuel Marston, settled and began clearing his farm on a lot west of that of William Coolidge about 1805, which, with the additions purchased in 1808, is now the farm owned by Orman L. Mann. He was a man of shrewdness and tact, and was prominent in the early settlement of the north part of the town, filling all the various town offices with marked ability, serving for several years as town clerk, selectman, constable, collector of taxes and the then important office of tything man. David Marston was born Sept. 17, 1779, probably in Coventry, and married Susannah Bronson, of Landaff, (born July 29, 1777) Jan. 23, 1803. Their two daughters, Mehitabel and Lucy, and their son, William Coolidge, were born in Coventry. William Coolidge Marston, born July 28, 1815, removed to Haverhill, where he was a substantial citizen and prosperous farmer. His son, Moody C. Marston, and grand-

son, John G. Marston, are well known citizens of Bath.

William Whitcher was born in Warren, on the farm cleared and owned by his father, near Coventry line, the locality since known as Warren Summit, May 23, 1783, the third of the eleven children of Chase and Hannah (Morrill) Whitcher. Chase Whitcher was one of the first settlers of Warren, a soldier in the war of the Revolution, and a direct descendant of Thomas Whittier, through Nathaniel, Reuben and Joseph, who came from England in 1638, and settled at first in Newbury, Mass., afterwards removing to Haverhill, Mass., where, in 1688, he built the house in which his most famous descendant, John Greenleaf Whittier, was born, which, until the death of the latter, has since been in the Whittier family, and is now owned by the Whittier Memorial Association. The name of the descendants of Thomas has been variously spelled—Whittier, Whitcher and Whicher, the former being the most common form, though, until the beginning of the nineteenth century it was pronounced as of two syllables, “Whit-cher.” Chase Whitcher was more famous as a hunter and trapper than a farmer, and his son William doubtless learned of the opening for a settlement in the north part of Coventry through the father’s hunting expeditions. He married Feb. 25, 1807, Mary, the daughter of Samuel and Sarah (Collins) Noyes, of Landaff, born Nov. 5, 1787. To them were born between the dates, Dec. 26, 1807, and Feb. 24, 1831, a family of sixteen children, ten sons and six daughters, all of whom, with a single exception, lived to marry and establish homes of their own. He purchased parts of lots numbered 15, 13, 22 and 59, and built his first house on the spot where his son, Ira Whitcher, some forty years afterward established his home. He took an important part in town af-



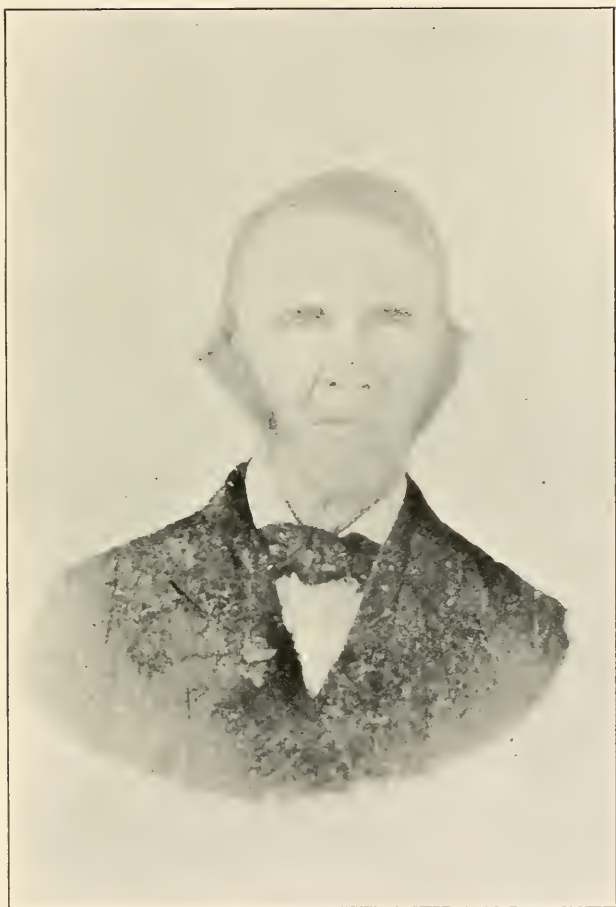
WILLIAM WHITCHER.

fairs, serving as tax collector, constable, selectman and agent for building highways, in short, filling for many years, all the various town offices. He was a pioneer in building highways, and did more than perhaps any one man to secure communication with the adjoining towns of Bath and Haverhill, which, in the early part of the century, had become leading business, political and social centres. After the death of Obadiah Eastman and the removal from town of William Coolidge, he was commissioned a Justice of the Peace, and for years was familiarly known as "the Squire," in later years, "the Old Squire." He was a man of deep piety, of old school puritanical principles and notions, and was for many years, in the early history of the town, in the habit of conducting religious meetings in barns, school houses, or private houses, in his capacity of regularly licensed local preacher of the Methodist Episcopal church, or as assistant to the early circuit riders who now and then made appointments on their horseback pilgrimages through the backwoods towns. He was never elected a representative to the General Court, but he lived to see four of his sons, Moses, Ira, Chase and Daniel, serve successive terms in that body with honor to themselves and credit to the town. His life was one of great activity and he lived to see the town, for which he had done so much, a prosperous community, dying in March, 1859, in the 76th year of his age.

Jonathan Marston followed his brother David, about 1807, and settled on the North and South road, clearing the farm which remained his homestead until his death, and which is now owned by Alfred Morrill. His sons, Orrin, Bartlett and Jonathan Hale, all established themselves in town, but later removed, J. Hale going to the northern part of New York, Orrin to Franconia and Bartlett to Woods-

ville. Jonathan was married to Phebe, daughter of Peter How, who came to Landaff from Bradford in 1792. Of the children of Peter How, four besides Mrs. Marston came early to Coventry, Daniel How, who settled on the hill to the south of William Coolidge's, first settlement, Peter How Jr., who about 1808 settled a little to the west of William Whitcher, Nathaniel How, who came a little later, and Mary, wife of Major Samuel Mann, who came still later. These were all thrifty, substantial people, who added to the prosperity of the new settlement. Daniel How was twice married and had a large family. His youngest son, Daniel M. Howe, with several of his grandchildren and great-grand children, still reside in town. None of the descendants of Peter How, are now in town, and none of his children are now living. Nathaniel How died comparatively young. One son, Nathaniel Goodall Howe, is now (1904) living in Lafayette, Ind., where he has been a leading citizen and prosperous man of business, and is greatly interested in his native town.

The Tyler brothers, Kimball, Elisha and Jesse, came to Coventry from Landaff about the year 1807. Elisha settled on lot No. 6, Gerrish survey, next to Landaff line, and the farm became in time a large one, noted for its fine orchards and fruit trees, but has long since been abandoned, and is now almost entirely covered with forest growth. Jesse Tyler settled in the same neighborhood, while Kimball settled further toward the west on the farm just off the road leading from the meeting house to Tunnel stream, near its junction with the county road to Easton. He lived there until his death, and to him and his wife, Sally Streeter, were born a family of fourteen children, all of whom grew to manhood and womanhood, and several of whom remained



PETER HOWE.

in town. Several of his grandchildren are at the present time residents of Benton and are prominently identified with its interests. Kimball Tyler was born Sept 17, 1783. His wife, Sally Streeter, was born Feb. 28, 1784. They were married in Landaff, Apr. 15, 1805, and soon afterwards removed to Coventry.

Abraham Norris came to Coventry from Bath in 1809, and settled on the corner lot adjoining Bath and Haverhill. The farm is now owned by Lebina H. Parker. Two of his sons, David Marston Norris and James Norris, and one daughter, Martha Norris, were lifelong residents of the town. Daniel Noyes, a brother of the wife of William Witcher, came from Landaff to Coventry about the same time, but remained only a few years, when he returned to Landaff.

In the year 1812 the different sections of the town had been settled, and there were 33 ratable polls, twelve of whom were in the north part of the town, while the other twenty-one had their homes on "the Meadows," at "High Street" and in the "Page District." But the settlement of the town had been begun. The town was yet a wilderness, with clearings here and there, which were the beginnings of the farms of the next generation. The Jonathan Hale farm comprised more than a thousand acres, and the inventory of 1812 showed that in this tract there were 20 acres of arable land, 20 acres of mowing land, and 30 acres of pasturage. Robert Elliott had five acres of arable land, four acres of mowing, and ten acres of pasturage. The Obadiah Eastman farm had four acres of arable land, 24 acres of mowing, and 32 acres of pasturage. On the north side of the town William Coolidge had ten acres each of mowing and pasture. David Marston six acres each, Jonathan Marston ten acres each, Elijah Wilson five acres each, Jesse

Tyler ten acres each, Daniel How two acres each, William Whitcher five acres each, and Peter How, Jr., five acres of mowing and three acres of pasturage. At "High Street" Samuel and Robert Jackson had three acres of arable land, 11 of mowing, and 15 of pasture, and on "the Meadows" James and Elisha Ford had one acre of arable, 11 of mowing and eight of pasture. The other settlements were only small clearings. In the entire township there were barely three hundred acres redeemed from the wilderness. The roads from the north of the town were little more than bridle paths, and except that through "the Meadows," were hardly worthy of the name of roads. That through the "North and South Woods" had been bushed out and ox-carts could possibly be driven over it during the summer, and horses hitched to sleds could make their way during the winter, but these answered the purpose, since there were no chaises or carriages in town. The settlers had little to sell. They made maple sugar, and potash from the abundant wood ashes resulting from the land clearings. They raised some herds grass and clover, from which they threshed and winnowed out seed for sale, but exports to the towns of Haverhill and Bath were few, and imports were less, since a little money must be obtained in some way with which to pay taxes. The dwellings were, for the most part, especially in North Coventry, built of logs and were small and primitive structures; the furniture was of the simplest, and the problem was to secure enough from the soil in the way of food upon which to obtain a bare subsistence. Clothing was home made from flax or wool, and each of the primitive homes of the town obtained by dint of ingenuity and painstaking effort the manufactured article from the raw material. The flax was raised, rotted, broken, hackeled, spun and

woven; the wool was sheared, washed, carded, rolled, spun and woven, and the resultant cloth was by home hands made to do for the ever increasing families, for children were the most prolific crop. In the inventory for 1812 there are no sheep enumerated, and there doubtless but few in town, cossets kept near the door, for many years were yet to pass before sheep and lambs would be safe from bears, wolves and the Siberian lynxes, with which the forests abounded. Some of the housewives obtained now and then a fleece of wool from a Landaff or a Warren neighbor in exchange for knots of "tow and linen" yarn, but wool and cloth were precious commodities. The buildings in the town, housing forty families, were valued this same year at \$2415. They were hardly dwellings with all modern improvements. As for other property there were 39 horses, 32 oxen and 139 cows and other neat stock from one year old and upwards. There seems to have been one capitalist in town, for Obadiah Whitcher, who lived near the Warren line, was assessed for \$200 money at interest. The hardships borne by these early settlers, and their contentment and cheerfulness under these hardships seem at the present time almost incredible. Some of them gave up the contest and migrated to other towns where they deemed conditions more favorable, but those who remained illustrated the theory of the scientists as to the "survival of the fittest."

The beginning had been made. A town government had been made. The first town meeting was warned by Obadiah Eastman, Esq., to be held December 30, 1801, at the dwelling house of Major Jonathan Hale, on request of the following freeholders of the town:

Robert Elliott,
James Ford,

Samuel Jackson,
Samuel Jackson, Jr.,

Salmon Niles,
Elisha Ford,
Samuel Marston,

Obadiah Eastman, Jr.,
James Eastman,
Barnabas Niles.

The officers chosen were : moderator, Obadiah Eastman ; town clerk, Salmon Niles ; selectmen, Samuel Jackson, Obadiah Eastman, Barnabas Niles ; constable, Elisha Ford. This meeting was simply for organization. The first regular March town meeting was held March 9, 1802. At this meeting the officers elected were : moderator, Barnabas Niles ; town clerk, Salmon Niles ; selectmen, Samuel Jackson, Obadiah Eastman, William Coolidge ; constable, Elisha Ford ; surveyors of highways, James Eastman, Barnabas Niles. It was voted to raise the sum of thirty-eight dollars for the support of schools, eighteen dollars to defray town charges and forty dollars for the purpose of repairing roads. It was also voted that "each man working on the road be allowed seven cents an hour, a yoke of oxen the same, each man to find his own diet and tools." At this meeting no votes appear to have been cast for Governor, Councillor, Senator and County officers. Perhaps the town authorities did not understand that they had suffrage rights in this matter. March 24, 1802 the freeholders and other voters of Coventry and Haverhill met at the dwelling house of Major Jona. Hale, innholder, for the choice of a representative to the General Court. Dr. Ross Coon, of Haverhill, was chosen moderator and Col. Moody Bedell, of Haverhill, representative. The meetings for the choice of representative appear to have been held subsequently in Haverhill until Coventry, in 1807, was classed with Warren for the choice of representative, and the meeting was again held in Coventry. A meeting was held August 30, 1802 for the purpose of voting for members of Congress at which eight votes

were cast, all for the regular candidates of the Federalist party, Samuel Tenney, Silas Betton, Clifton Claggett, Samuel Hunt and David Hough.

The growth of the town during the next ten years is indicated to some extent by the appropriations made at the annual town meeting of 1812. It was voted to raise seventy dollars for schools; thirty dollars to defray town charges, and two hundred dollars for making and repairing highways. These were certainly liberal appropriations in view of the inventory of taxable property in the town to which reference has already been made. The names of the voters in the town as appearing on the check list in this latter year were :

Jonathan Hale,	Benjamin Woodbury,
Philip Knowton,	William Mead,
Salmon Niles,	Hugh Matthews,
Stephen Jeffers,	Daniel Davis,
Levi Doty,	Robert Elliott,
William Whitcher,	Peter Howe,
Daniel Howe,	Jesse Tyler,
Daniel Noyes,	Kimball Tyler,
William Coolidge,	David Marston,
Jonathan Marston,	Abraham Norris,
Joseph E. Marston,	Obadiah Eastman,
James Eastman,	Moses Eastman,
Peter Eastman,	Samuel Jackson,
Samuel Jackson, Jr.,	Robert Jackson,
James Ford,	Elisha Ford,
Abner Willoughby,	Samuel Aspinwall,
Obadiah Whitcher,	Elkanah Danforth.

Here were 34 legal voters, but the highest vote cast for state officers was but 24.

For Governor, William Plummer received 12.

John Taylor Gilman,	8.
For Councillor, Abel Merrill,	19.
Jonathan Franklin,	5.

The independent voter was abroad, but the Jeffersonian Democracy was in the majority, which was all the more apparent at the November election, when the eight Madison electors received ten votes each, to one each for the Clinton electors.

CHAPTER III.

LATER COMERS AND GROWTH.

The growth of Coventry was not rapid during the next generation, counting a generation's life at thirty-three years, but it had been healthy and sure. It was still in 1835 a backwoods town, with poor roads, inadequate schools, without a church edifice, post-office or store, but the population had nearly trebled, being about 400, and the legal voters at the annual March meeting of 1835 numbered a little upwards of ninety, though for state and county officers but seventy-four votes were polled. The check list for that year contained the following names :

Abel Batchelder,	Nathan B Davis,
Israel H. Davis,	Jonathan Davis,
Jeremiah B. Davis,	Jonathan Noyes,
Kimball Tyler,	Edwin Tyler,
Samuel Howe,	David Whitcher,
Jacob Whitcher,	Chellis Goodwin,
James Hinkley,	Jesse Hinkley,
Kinsley H. Batchelder,	Daniel Howe,
Samuel Mann,	Abraham Norris,
William Howe,	George W. Cogswell,
Nathan Coburn,	Ara Smith,
William Whitcher,	Moses Whitcher,
William Whitcher, Jr.,	Amos Whitcher,
William Hand,	Amos Kimball,
Samuel Kimball,	Richard Brown,
Joseph S. Lock,	John S. Batchelder,
John K. Davis,	Enos Wells,

Orrin Marston,
Thomas French,
Winthrop G. Torsey,
Charles K. Merrill,
James Flanders,
William Mann,
John Stowe, Jr.,
William Keyser,
Humphrey P. Tyler,
Timothy Ayer,
J. P. Ayer,
Joseph Rollins,
Elijah Gray,
Jonathan Welch,
Hugh Matthews,
Jesse Eastman, Jr.,
John Jeffers,
John Lathrop,
Jacob Currier,
James Ford,
Deliverance Woodward,
David Chase,
Levi Bradish,
Rexford Peirce,
Moses Mead,
James Kent,
Stephen Jeffers,
Samuel Page,
Niles Doty,
Peter Howe,

Jonathan Marston,
James H. Cox,
Moses Torsey,
Israel Flanders,
John Brown,
John Stowe,
Francis Oakes,
Elisha Tyler,
Benjamin C. Hutchins,
Alvah Ayer,
Milton Southard,
Elijah S. Gray.
Barzilla Pierce,
Chase Whitcher, Jr.,
Jesse Eastman,
Benjamin M. Eastman,
Josiah F. Jeffers,
Calvin Bailey,
Elisha Ford,
Daniel Batchelder,
Weare Leavitt,
Arthur L. Pike,
Phineas Gould,
Aaron Knight,
Jonathan Hale,
James J. Page,
David Page,
Edward P. Coolidge,
William Doty,
Robert Coburn.

With the exception of two farms subsequently cleared at the base of Moosilauke up the Tunnel stream, and in two or

three other localities, where farms were afterwards cleared adjoining those already settled, the settlement of the town was in 1835 complete. Its subsequent growth was largely from the inside rather than from the outside. The land capable of cultivation had been taken up and the period of settlement was being followed by a period of development. The early poverty had been to some extent overcome as is evidenced by the fact that in the inventory for the year three taxpayers were assessed for property valued at upwards of \$2000, viz.; Moses and William Whitcher, Jr., \$2138, Deliverance Woodward \$2361, and Moses Mead \$2231, while several, Kinsley H. Batchelder, Daniel Howe, Nathan Coburn, Enos Wells, Daniel Batchelder, David Chase, Aaron Knight, and Peter Howe were each assessed upon property valued at \$1000 and upwards. Two taxpayers had money at interest, Elder George W. Cogswell, a minister of the Free Will Baptist denomination, and Moses Mead, being assessed for \$300 each.

Of those coming into town and becoming with their families permanent residents between the years 1812 and 1835, some merit more than passing notice. John Buswell came from Hill in the year 1812 and entered the employment of Dr. Thatcher Goddard. His wife was Lucinda Pike, a sister of Isaac Pike, of Haverhill, Mrs. James Harriman, of Warren, and of Arthur L. Pike, who for several years was a resident of Coventry, though he afterwards removed to Haverhill. Mr. Buswell subsequently removed to Warren, then to Haverhill, but later returned to Coventry purchasing the farm at the west end of "the Meadows" where he lived until his death in 1858. He was a man of much force of character, an old time Federalist, a devoted Whig, a worshiper of Henry Clay, and in 1855 cast one of the two last

Whig ballots ever polled in town. His family of thirteen children, with one exception, lived to the estate of manhood and womanhood. One son, Moses P. Buswell, lived for many years in town, afterwards removing to Haverhill, where he still resides.

Stephen Jeffers and Levi Doty settled in what afterwards became the "Page District" in 1812. The Dotys were for several years residents of the town, but later removed to Haverhill. In 1813 James and Elisha Ford were occupying the meadow farm afterwards known as the A. L. Warren farm while Daniel Davis, Esq., and William Mead had also established themselves on the Meadows. On the north side of the town Samuel Morrill and James Rogers were among the new comers. James Rogers came from Greenfield, Mass., and married Hepzibah Tyler, a sister of Kimball Tyler, May 9, 1813. Samuel Morrill married Rhoda Howe, a sister of Peter Howe. Chase Witcher, Jr., had begun a settlement on the North and South road about a mile distant from Jonathan Marston's to the South, and was married March 21, 1813 to Mary Green, of New Holderness. They had no issue, and his farm is now a part of the forest lands of the International Paper Co. Asa Hinkley also settled the same year next to Landaff line a little to the east of the Abraham Norris farm, but a few years later removed with his sons, James and Jesse, just over the line in Haverhill.

The new settlers in 1814 were William Rogers, Moses Torsey, Robert Rollins, Joseph Rollins, Michael Moulton and Jacob Moulton on the north side of the town. Moses Torsey settled to the east of the North and South road on the farm afterwards owned by his son Winthrop G. Torsey. During his occupancy of the farm he trapped and killed forty-nine bears and just missed his fiftieth through the

theft of his trap. His son, Winthop G. Torsey, lived in town until his death at an advanced age, serving on the board of selectmen, and filling various town offices. One of his sons, Moses Torsey, Jr., moved to Haverhill. One daughter, Sally, married Elisha Kimball of Methuen, Mass., another, Betsey, married Robert Coburn, and another, Mary, married Orrin Marston, both of Coventry. William T. Torsey, son of Winthrop G., was also prominent in town affairs. His only daughter, Emeline, is the wife of Milo H. Annis, of Woodsville. The family was noted for thrift, economy and the virtues of a strict Puritanism. On the south and west the new comers were Nathan Fifield, William Fifield, Isaac Fifield, William Bickford, Elkanah Danforth and Sylvanus Emery, but none of them remained long in town.

The check list for 1815 shows but forty names. The hard times following the second war with England had produced their due effect and at the March meeting held at the house of James Eastman at "High Street" only 20 of the 40 voters made their appearance. The north side of the town was represented only by Peter Howe and William Whitcher. William Coolidge, Daniel Howe, David and Jonathan Marston, Samuel Morrill, Abraham Norris, Kimball, Elisha and Jesse Tyler and Moses Torsey were not present. With the two exceptions named the voters were all from the south and west part of the town, and but two new names appeared on the list of voters, Samuel Fairbanks and Nathan Barber. It is perhaps unnecessary to state that the north part of the town was not recognized in the choice of town officers.

In 1816 three new names appeared on the check list, Elijah Gray, Nathan Willey and Moses L. Hobart. Elijah

Gray settled on what is now a part of the Dickey farm, so called, near High Street, and his buildings were a little to the east of the buildings on that farm. His farm has for the most part grown up to forest, and the site of the farm house is marked by an old cellar near the Moosilauke path. Moses L. Hobart kept the tavern on the Meadows, and during his stay in town was active in town affairs. There were but thirty-seven names on the list.

In 1817 several new names appeared on the check list, among them: Moses Knight, Ira Martin, Enos Wells, Samuel Page and James B. Davis. Moses Knight came from Landaff and purchased the William Coolidge farm, which later passed into the possession of Joseph Annis. Moses Knight with his sons were hard working men, but remained in town but a few years when they removed to East Haverhill. Ira Martin came from Bradford and settled on the road leading from North Benton to Haverhill. His wife was Sally Flanders, of Haverhill, whom he married March 7, 1802.

Perhaps the most notable new voter was Capt. Enos Wells who came from Canaan in 1816 and established himself on the South road, his farm afterwards becoming the property of his son George. For a period of more than thirty years Capt. Enos Wells was a personality to be reckoned with in all affairs of the town, social, religious, political. Social affairs in those early days clustered around the military order. Training days and muster days were great days, and Captain Enos Wells was a marked figure on these occasion. He was a man of religious fervor, and long before a church edifice had been erected in town he was one of the first to welcome the itinerant Methodist preachers and early identified himself with that denomination. Cap-

tain Wells had a gift for politics, as is evidenced by the fact that two years after his advent in town, in 1818, he was elected selectman and from that time on, until he retired from the active affairs of life, he was almost constantly in the service of the town as selectman or representative in the General Court. In 1827 he was chosen representative from the classed towns of Warren and Coventry, and at the annual town meeting in 1828 he was chosen agent to secure from the legislature an act permitting Coventry to send a representative by itself. He was successful in securing the desired legislation, and in 1829 was awarded the honor of being Coventry's first representative in the Great and General Court. Capt. Wells was a man of fair education, of great shrewdness and tact, and on a larger field of action would have won great fame as a politician. His children by his first marriage all died in infancy. He married for his second wife Sally Clark, of Landaff, who bore him three sons, Caleb, George and Enos C., all of whom are still living, the two first named in Haverhill, and the youngest in Lynn, Mass. Capt. Wells in later years built himself a house on Whitcher brook, near his sawmill, where he resided until his death, while for several years previous to their removal from town, his sons occupied farms on the South road, so called, in near proximity to that of their father. At present all of these are numbered among the abandoned farms of the town, and only the remnants of a dam mark the site where the sawmill once stood.

Samuel Page also came to Coventry, from Haverhill, Mass., in 1816, and purchased one of the farms in the Willard survey. He was known as "Bear" Page, just why does not appear. It may have been to distinguish him from another Samuel Page, or the nickname may have been given

him from some personal peculiarity, or still again, and what is more probable, it may have been given from the number of bears, with which the mountain forests abounded, he had been successful in killing. He was never himself prominent in town affairs, but of his five sons, three, James J., David and Daniel D., became influential citizens. David remained in town but a few years, married Margaret Taylor, of Derry, and removed to Haverhill Corner, where he was engaged in various speculative enterprises, and was from 1844 until his death, a member of the Grafton County bar. His son, Samuel T. Page, graduated from Dartmouth in 1871, was admitted to the bar, resided in Haverhill, represented that town in the state legislature, was Register of Probate for several years, removed to Manchester, and in 1903 returned to Haverhill, where he is still practicing his profession. A daughter, Elvira, married Hon. Alvin Burleigh, of Plymouth. Another daughter, Martha, died soon after her marriage to a Mr. Whitney, of Keene.

James J. Page, son of Samuel, received a good education, and for years followed the occupation of schoolmaster during the winter season, caring for his farm in the summer. Many elderly people have vivid recollections of him as school master, a man well versed in the "three R's", and strong on discipline, even though maintained by "birch and rule." Several of his daughters were teachers, notably, Eliza, Laura, Elizabeth and Mary, while his son, James, was one of the famous district schoolmasters of the day. Norman, the son of James, is following the profession of teacher, and is at present principal of a high school in the southern part of the state. There was a sort of teaching instinct in the family. James J. Page entered actively into town affairs almost on attaining his majority, served as

superintending school committee, selectman, representative to the General Court, and, in the days when the voters of the town had become, almost without exception, Democrats, and the unanimous Democracy had become divided into factions, was the acknowledged leader of the Page faction or party. His brother, Daniel D. Page, was only less prominent in the affairs of the town. He served as selectman, as member of the legislature, and held various town offices, at times and seasons when it was thought safer for him to be a candidate than for his brother James. While James J., late in life removed to Haverhill, buying a small farm on the river road a little south of the Newbury bridge, Daniel D. remained in town until his death, but each of his four sons left town soon after reaching their majority. James Page married Olive A., daughter of Jonathan Hunkins, who had settled at the end of the road on the Tunnel Stream, and settled on the farm of his father, living there until his death, the farm since being in the possession of his widow and children. It is the only farm in the south or west section of the town which has remained in the same family through three generations. James served as town clerk, selectman and representative, and was for years the efficient superintendent of schools. Another son of Samuel, Caleb, remained in town but a little time, when he removed to Haverhill. He married a sister of Isaac Pike. Another son, Joshua, was drowned before reaching manhood.

The new names appearing on the check list in 1818 were those of Timothy Ayer, Benj. R. Davis, John Huntress, Abner Palmer, Jonathan Welch, Stephen Lovejoy and Abel Marshall. Of these Jonathan Welch alone remained in town for a sufficient length of time to become permanently identified with its interests. He settled in the "High Street"

neighborhood, and his two sons, Silas M. and Bartlett, both became prominent citizens, each serving on the board of selectmen, and both dying in their early manhood within a few days of each other of malignant diphtheria. George Welch, one of the sons of Silas M., still resides in town, and another, Edgar, is engaged as a carpenter, builder and manufacturer of woodwork at Barton, Vt.

James Ball came to Coventry in 1819, but soon removed to East Landaff where he lived to an advanced age, and where some of his descendants still reside. Nathaniel Howe, brother of Daniel and Peter Howe, also settled in town the same year. The names of John Ford, James Harford and Moses Knight, Jr., also appear on the check list for the first time this year.

The new voters in 1820 were John Atwell, Augustus Coburn, Caleb Page and Ona Snow. John Atwell was a native of Maine; he married Dolly, a sister of William Whitcher, and settled on a farm on the road leading to the east part of the town, afterwards known as the Stephen Sherman farm, but now destitute of buildings, and mostly grown up to young forest. He was killed by a falling tree, and his widow survived him but a few years. One son, Chase Whitcher Atwell, went to Massachusetts, and at the time of his death, about 1889, was engaged in the real estate business in Boston. Caleb Page was a son of Samuel Page, but after his marriage removed to Haverhill and during the latter part of his life lived on the Oliverian road in East Haverhill, near the Benton line. Augustus Coburn was the first of a family coming later to town, who were important factors in its life.

New names added to the voting list in 1821 were Aaron Knight, Asa Howe, David Corwin, Ezra Niles, John Flan-

ders, Noadiah Lund, Thomas Treffren, Moses Mead and David Elliott. Aaron Knight was the son of Moses Knight, and Moses Mead was the son of William Mead, who had settled on the Meadows some years previously. The son, Moses, lived in town the greater part of the time for the next thirty years, and for much of the time was engaged in the profitable occupation of peddling. Asa Howe, a brother of Peter and Daniel, came from Landaff to the north part of the town, but remained only a few years, when he removed to Sutton, Vt., where he spent the remainder of his life.

In 1822 the name of James J. Page appears on the voting list, and he became immediately active in all the affairs of the town. Of liberal religious views, fond of good living, a good story teller, holding pronounced views in politics and on social questions he became early a leader. William Jenness had become the owner of the large Jonathan Hale farm, and his name was another of the new ones appearing in 1822. In the latter part of the same year Israel Flanders, accompanied by his father, Josiah Flanders, came to town from Bradford, Vt., and settled in the easterly part of North Benton on the farm where he lived until his death, followed the next year by his brother, James Flanders, who settled on a farm adjoining. Josiah Flanders had been a soldier in the War of the Revolution, and lived but a few years after coming to town. His grave is in the East cemetery. In each of the three cemeteries in town is found one such grave, that of Obadiah Eastman being at High Street, and that of Joseph Young in the West cemetery. Israel Flanders married Polly, a sister of Enos Wells, who bore him two sons and two daughters; John, LaFayette, Mahala, who married John E. Keyser, and Hannah, who married for her first husband Nelson F. Noyes. John settled on a

farm near his father where he resided until his death in 1903. LaFayette removed to Haverhill where he still resides. Hannah lives with a daughter in St. Johnsbury, Vt., and Mahala, the widow of John E. Keyser, still resides in town. Israel and Polly Flanders were simple, quiet, thrifty, God fearing people, who brought their family up, so far as lay in their power, to follow in their steps. They "got religion" of the fervid Methodist sort early, and enjoyed it during their long lives of nearly ninety years. They seldom ventured far from home, their hill farm supplied their simple wants, they knew nothing of the fret and anxiety caused by hustling and bustling to secure large wealth. They avoided debt, and while their earthly possessions were few, they would have scorned the thought of being regarded poor. There are some scores of people living who would travel some distance to hear "Uncle Israel" once more sing in a Methodist prayer meeting :

"Oh how happy are they
Who their Saviour obey," etc.

or to hear "Aunt Polly" declare that she meant "to persevere on to the end and at last land her weary soul in the broad bay of heaven, to go no more out forever in a never ending eternity." Aunt Polly sometimes mixed her figures of speech, but she was fervidly eloquent.

James Hopkins Cox also came to town in this same year, 1822, and established himself a little to the east of the North and South road, where he cleared a farm which became productive, though it was a common saying that there was no place on his farm where an ox cart could stand level except on the barn floor. His eldest son, Albert, settled near him on reaching his majority, while his second, Thomas, lived with his father until about 1865, when they sold their farm

and removed to Lisbon. His youngest son, George, removed to Bath, and later to Manchester. Mr. Cox was a man of a good deal of energy and originality of character. He was outspoken, not to say loud spoken, in his views, and his neighbors were never at a loss to know where he stood on any question of interest to the public. His name appears on the check list for the first time in 1823. Other new names were those of David Quimby, Joseph Pearsons, Benjamin Page, Robert Hunkings, Joseph Day and Smith Jackson.

New names on the list in 1824 were Daniel Batchelder, Daniel Day, Moses French, Samuel Page, Jr., and Asa Smith. Daniel Batchelder was a clergyman, who remained in town but a little while, but his son, Daniel Batchelder, Jr., who became a voter in 1825, became during the next twenty years one of the leading citizens of the town. He served on the board of selectmen, for several years represented the town in the General Court, where, in 1840, he secured the passage of the act changing the name of the town from Coventry to Benton. There are few of the residents of the North Country who do not remember "Dan Batchelder", who from 1830 to 1860, was probably the most popular country auctioneer for a large section of Grafton county, New Hampshire, and Orange county, Vermont. Rough and brusque in manner, boisterous in his demeanor, quick witted, and ready with story and repartee, he was in himself an attraction on auction days, and knew just how to deal with the crowds who attended the sales of farm crops, farm stock, farming utensils, and "other articleless too numerous to mention", which went to make up the auctions at farm houses. He was a man of great tact, and of influence in the councils of his party. He removed from Benton

to Corinth, Vt., but later returned to New Hampshire, buying a home in Haverhill, near what is now Pike, where he spent the later years of his life.

Ara Smith settled on the South road in North Benton, in what was known as the Wells neighborhood. He had one son, Henry, who left town in early manhood. Other new comers whose names appear on the check list for the first time in 1826 were Nathan Coburn, Robert Coburn, Jacob Currier, William Mann, Josuha Knight, (a son of Moses Knight), Jonathan Noyes, Joseph Palmer and Daniel Patch. Nathan and Robert Coburn were brothers of Augustus Coburn, who came to town six years before. Nathan became prominent in town affairs, serving as town clerk, selectman and representative, but removed from town in 1835. Robert was less active, but was greatly interested in religious matters, was licensed and later ordained as a preacher in the Christain denomination, but, while preaching occasionally, never held a regular pastorate. The hill lying to the east of the South road, and to the west of what were known as the Clough and Wright farms, was long known as "Coburn hill." Jonathan Noyes was a brother of the wife of William Whitcher. He remained but a few years in town, when he returned to his native town, Landaff. William Mann settled just off the East road next to Landaff line, and near Tunnel Stream, and his farm was one of the best in that section. The buildings have long since disappeared, but as late as 1860 the apple and fruit orchard, which he had planted, was one of the best in town.

The new names in 1827 were those of James Hinkley, Nathan Johnson, Jonathan Bailey, Moses Ellsworth and Benjamin C. Hutchins. The latter had a large family, and of his sons, Lucius, Joseph, Benjamin F. and Noah, were

for a long time residents of the town. Noah married Hannah Jesseman, of Franconia. A daughter married Rev. George Brown, the well-known Advent clergyman of Centre Haverhill, and their son, Solomon J., resides in Benton on the William T. Torsey farm. Noah Hutchins died of consumption in middle life, and his widow subsequently married William T. Torsey. Lucius Hutchins spent the most of his life in town, but none of his family now live there. Joseph Hutchins, late in life, removed to Haverhill, and one son, Charles, resides in Woodsville. Benjamin F. Hutchins died in the early fifties of cancer, and his three daughters married and removed from town. The eldest daughter, Susan, married Kimball F. Woodman, of Bath. The widow of Benjamin F. Hutchins subsequently married Amos C. Mann. The Hutchinses all resided in the east part of the town, as did Asa Merrill, who married the daughter of Benjamin C. While none of the family succeeded in accumulating property they were, for the most part, industrious people, who contributed to the growth and development of the town. There was a comparatively large immigration into the town in 1827, and the tax list of 1828 bore a large number of new names. These were: Nathan B. Davis, Jeremiah B. Davis, John K. Davis, Israel H. Davis, Jonathan Davis, Jonathan Davis, Jr., William Davis, William Doty, Daniel Doty, Winthrop Elliott, David Elliott, Fayette Wells, Daniel Coburn, Jacob Whitcher, Thomas W. Ford, Daniel Young, Wm. Keyser, Oliver Farmer, Samuel Tyler, Winthrop G. Torsey, Amos Tyler, Abel Batchelder, Jeremiah Davenport and Roswell Elliott.

William Keyser settled in the east part of the town, clearing the farm on which his son, James H., now lives. He was also a cooper by trade, and found plenty of occupation

for the exercise of his trade. In later years, when the manufacture of potato starch became an important industry in Benton, Bath, Landaff and Franconia, he did an extensive business in the manufacture of starch casks, and by patient unremitting toil made his farm one of the best in the eastern section of the town. His sons, Charles B., John E. and James H., all remained in town, being numbered among the most useful citizens. Fayette Wells was a brother of Capt. Enos Wells, and David and Caleb Noyes came from Landaff, remaining, however, but a little time, when they returned to Landaff. The Elliotts and Dotys lived on the Meadows. Jacob Witcher was a younger brother of William. He married Sarah Richardson, of Warren, and settled near Haverhill line at the foot of Black Mountain, his farm subsequently being known as the Charles M. Howe farm. The buildings have long since disappeared, and a large part of the farm has reverted once more to forest. His sons, Hazen, Jacob, Jr., Alonzo, Levi and Stephen, left town in early life, removing to Massachusetts, where their descendants still live, in Stoneham, Woburn and Quincy. A daughter, Sarah Jane, married the Rev. Andrew K. Crawford, a Methodist Episcopal clergyman of New York. She died at an early age, leaving two children.

The Davis family settled in North Benton and were for many years largely identified with the growth and development of the town. Jonathan Davis married Miriam Bartlett and came from Essex county, Mass., to Northfield, N. H., where his eleven children were born, and all of whom, except one, David, who remained in Northfield, came with him to Coventry in 1827 or a few years later. Of his sons who came to Coventry, Nathan B. Davis married Abigail S.



DARIUS K. DAVIS.

Batchelder. He settled on the farm at the summit of what is now known as Davis hill. Of his six children three died in infancy, but three grew to the estate of manhood and womanhood. Darius K., born in Northfield, Nov. 7, 1825, married Susannah, daughter of Daniel and Phebe Howe. He resided in Benton until about 1860, when he removed to Northfield and to Haverhill, where he was engaged in mercantile pursuits at East Haverhill, Pike and Warren Summit for many years. In more recent years he has resided in Woodsville with his only child and daughter, Mrs. Oliver D. Eastman. As a young man before leaving Benton he served as superintending School Committee and also as one of the selectmen of the town. His brother Abel, S. E. B., born in Benton, Aug. 28, 1827, removed to Indianapolis, where he still resides. His sister, Abigail, born in Benton Apr. 29, 1837, married W. H. H. Grimes, of Franconia, and also removed to Indianapolis, where she has since resided. Nathan B. was prominent in town affairs, holding all the various town offices. He removed to Haverhill about 1859. Jeremiah B. Davis, the second son of Jonathan and Miriam, married Susan, daughter of Kimball and Sally Streeter Tyler, and settled near the County road just to the north of Kimball Tyler's farm, the buildings standing near the farm buildings now owned and occupied by Byron A. Tyler. They had a large family of children, Wesley, Mary, Laban T., Eliza, Kimball T., Sally, Jeremiah B., Jr., Constantine and Dennison. Of these, only one, Mary, who married Charles B. Keyser, now resides in town. Laban T. resides in Lynn, Mass, and Jeremiah B. in Easton.

Israel Davis married Sally Batchelder, a sister of the wife of Nathan B., who bore him one son, Israel B., who was familiarly known as "Gould" Davis, alleged physician,

insurance agent, and "promoter" in a small way of various schemes. Israel remained in town but a short time, removing to Haverhill, where he lived many years on the Lime Kiln road, so called.

John K. Davis married Sarah Ann Marshall, and settled on the South road on a farm recently owned by George Brill. They had four sons, Lorenzo D., who removed to Tilton; Marcellus M., who was for many years in the employ of the Boston, Concord and Montreal railroad as road master, and who, about 1874, moved west; Frank and Gilman. They had also two daughters, Maria and Sally Ann. Jonathan Davis, Jr., also married a Batchelder, Lydia, a sister of Abigail and Sally, and settled at the top of the hill on the west side of what is known as Davis brook. Of their two daughters, Irene became the wife of William T. Torsey and Sabrina died at about the age of seventeen.

George Davis, another son of Jonathan and Miriam, was a Wesleyan Methodist clergyman. He married Phebe Bradbury, and spent a brief time in town, living near his brothers, but his life was naturally an itinerant one, and he died in Canaan, leaving one son.

William Davis married Sarah Torsey and settled on a farm just to the north of that of his brother Jonathan. He left town sometime in the sixties, removing first to Tilton, and later to Piermont, where he died about 1897. They had two daughters, Amanda, the wife of Edward E. Grimes, of Piermont, and Anna.

Three daughters were also born to Jonathan and Miriam Davis. Polly was the first and Sally the second wife of Moses Batchelder, a brother of the wives of Nathan B. Israel and Jonathan Davis, Jr. It was not often that two families became so closely connected by marriage as did

these two of Davis and Batchelder. The other daughter, Irene, married a Philips but did not reside in town. Two of the Batchelder brothers, Kinsley and Abel, came to Benton about the same time as did the Davises and remained in town some years. The Davis family was a large one, and for many years, indeed until about 1860, was an important element in the life of the town. Israel, Jonathan and William Davis were members of the Free-will Baptist church and will long be remembered for the part they took in the prayer meetings of their denomination. They used to sit in the "Amen Corner", and the "Amens" of Israel and William were frequently heard by those a mile distant from the meeting. Jeremiah B. had for a time a license to preach and exercised his right in the barns and school houses and farm kitchens, which were the places of meeting for religious worship in the days before the meeting house was erected. There was a fervid emotional element in the Davis' nature, which in times of revival, gave rise to shouting and bodily exercises, which were a source of amusement, if not of edification, to the younger element in attendance on the revival services. But one representative of this large Davis family is now in town, Mary, the widow of Charles B. Keyser, the daughter of Jeremiah.

In 1829 there were six new names added to the check list: Elisha Ford, Jr., Kimball Tyler, Jr., Moses Witcher, Horace Webber, Hazen Hinkley and Benj. M. Eastman. The first three named were sons of early settlers, indicating that the town was beginning to grow and develop from within, a fact made the more patent the next year, 1830, when among the new names on the list were those of Jesse Eastman, Jr., Orrin Marston, Marcus B. Jackson, Elijah Gray, Jr., Kimball Tyler, Jr., Moses Torsey, Jr., and William,

Whitcher, Jr., all sons of early settlers. Moses and William Whitcher, soon after reaching their majority, formed a partnership, engaging extensively in farming and in the manufacture of lumber, and soon became noted for their energy, enterprise and thrift. William died at an early age, and his widow, Lucinda, married Harrison Blake and removed to Landaff. Moses married Sarah, the daughter of Samuel and Dorcas Royce, and was killed by the falling of a tree in March, 1846, in the thirty-ninth year of his age. He had served on the board of selectmen, and represented the town in the General Court, was town clerk, and, at the time of his death, was doubtless in point of business enterprise and ability, in the merited confidence reposed in him by his townsmen, the first citizen of his town. Marcus B. Jackson was the eldest of the seven children of Samuel Jackson, Jr., who was prominent in town affairs in the first quarter of the century. The other children were Dan Young, William Wilson, Fletcher, Eliza, Thomas Branch and John. The family removed to Haverhill, where the sons, especially Marcus B., Thomas Branch and John became leading citizens. Kimball Tyler, Jr., remained but a few years in town, going to Stoneham, Mass., where he was followed later by several of his brothers and sisters. Jesse Eastman, Jr. remained in town a few years, but with most of his family, left for other localities. Orrin Marston married a daughter of Moses Torsey and established his home on a farm he cleared just north of the long stretch of forest through which the North and South road runs. He spent nearly his whole life in town, but after the death of his wife, removed to Franconia, where he spent his last years. One of his sons, Stephen Marston, lives in Woodsville.

Among the new comers in 1829 were John Stow, Ebe-

neezer Scribner, William Lane, Samuel Kimball, Ezekiel C. Rogers and John Browley. John Stow settled at first on the David Marston farm, later owned by William Whitcher, and now owned by Bert Cox. He later removed to the eastern part of the town on what is now known as the Charles B. Keyser farm. Still later he owned an excellent farm on the hill to the west of Enos Wells' saw mill, which had formerly been occupied by the Lother brothers. This is now numbered among the abandoned farms, and though largely grown up to forest, and with buildings long since gone, is known as the Stow place. One son, William C., known as Carlos Stow, resided in town some years, as did also his eldest son, John Stow, Jr., and his two youngest sons, Nathan and Nathaniel, known as the Stow twins. Later these two latter married sisters, Ruth and Julia Weed, and removed to Stoneham, Mass.

Among the new comers in town in 1830 were John Brown, Richard Brown, David Whitcher, Daniel Weeks, Charles K. Merrill, Timothy Ayer, Levi Bradish, David Chaney and Daniel Chaney, Jr. David Whitcher was a brother of William Whitcher. He settled near his brother Jacob, but died in 1835. He was one of the selectmen of the town at the time of his death. He married Phebe Smith, and his three sons, Joseph, David and Daniel removed to Meredith. The brothers, John Brown and Richard Brown came from Andover. The former settled on a hill farm to the southwest of William Keyser's, where he lived until his death. His son, Jonas Galusha, lived in town until about 1868, when he removed to the farm at Haverhill Centre, where his son, Rev. George E. Brown, and his grandsons, Jonas N. and Allen Brown now reside. Another son, John C. Brown, removed to Michigan in 1856, following his broth-

er Jesse, who had gone there earlier, another, Daniel W. Brown, died in early manhood. One daughter married Joseph Hutchins, and his youngest daughter, Eliza, married John Flanders, and still resides in Benton. Jonas G. Brown was one of the most thrifty and substantial citizens of the town, and acquired a competence from his farming and lumbering operations. His mill on Tunnel stream, which he owned in company with Ira Whiteher, was the first in the north part of the town to substitute the circular saw for the old fashioned "up and down" saw. His wife was Angeline Whiteman, of Warren. He embraced the Adventist faith, and for many years refrained from voting because of conscientious scruples. His son, George E. Brown, has been for many years a respected minister of the Advent denomination. The eldest of his three daughters, Merium, married Chester Clough, of Benton; Clara J., married Willard W. Coburn, of Haverhill. Both are deceased. A daughter of Clara, is the wife of Russell T. Bartlett, of Woodsville. The youngest daughter of Jonas G. Brown, Imogene, is the wife of Calvin W. Cummings, of Ashland. Richard Brown settled in what was known as the "South Neighborhood", on a farm adjoining that of James H. Cox. He lived here until about 1860, when he removed with his son Leonard to Bath on the farm owned by William Burnham at the foot of Bradley Hill. One of his daughters married Bartlett Marston, and another, Nelson F. Carter, the latter removing to Michigan.

There were few new settlers in town in 1831, and the check list for 1832 shows but two new names, Asa Noyes and Calif Day. John Lathrop purchased the Jesse Eastman farm in 1832, and Josiah F. Jeffers began to clear his farm and establish himself on the North and South road,

the last settled on the road from High Street to North Benton. Deliverance Woodward had purchased the Jonathan Hale farm and came to reside upon it, entering actively into town life. Edward P. Coolidge, the son of William Coolidge, returned to town to reside with his grandfather, Jonathan Hale. Other new voters in 1833 were Weare Leavitt, Hiram Pool, Paine Blake, Timothy Hildreth, Timothy Wilmot, David Young, Jr., Daniel Weeks, Amos Whitcher and John Stow, Jr.

During the next two years most of the new names appearing on the voting list were sons of early settlers, the chief exceptions being those of George W. Cogswell and Barzilla Pierce in 1834, and Samuel Mann in 1835.

Barzilla Pierce was a Methodist Episcopal clergyman, who lived only a short time in town. He was a man of Episcopal proportions, weighing upwards of three hundred pounds, but he never reached the Episcopacy. This was reserved for Elijah Hedding, who was Presiding Elder for several years of the New Hampshire district of the New England Conference, and who, according to tradition, once preached in David Marston's barn in North Benton while visiting the Landaff Circuit. This is believed to be the only time that a bishop, or one who was to become a bishop, ever visited the town. Major Samuel Mann, who married Mary Howe, a sister of Daniel and Peter, settled on the farm subsequently owned by his son, George W. They were the parents of seven sons, Jesse, Moody, Amos C., Samuel, James A., Edward F. and George W. Jesse went to Massachusetts, where he resided several years, returning later to Bath, where he resided during the remainder of his life. While in Massachusetts he resided in Charleston, and was one of the leaders of the mob which

burned the Ursuline convent in Somerville. After his return to New Hampshire he became prominent in the organization of the Native American, or Know Nothing party, and was frequently on the stump in behalf of his party, and later of the Republican party. He was appointed by President Lincoln mail agent between Littleton and Boston, a position which he held for seven or eight years. Moody became a resident of Haverhill, where he took a prominent part in politics, being as uncompromising a Democrat as his brother. Jesse was Whig, Know Nothing and Republican. Amos C. spent the early part of his life at sea, but later married for his second wife, the widow of Benjamin F. Hutchins, and lived for several years on the John C. Brown farm on the Tunnel Stream at the foot of the path leading to the summit of Moosilauke. Samuel, disappointed in a love affair, left home suddenly, and nothing was heard of him for nearly twenty years, during which time he served in the army during the Mexican war, being bearer of dispatches for Gen. Zachary Taylor, afterwards going overland to California with the forty-niner's. In the early fifties he returned home, having long been regarded as dead, and married his former sweetheart, Sarah Bailey, of Newbury, Vt., and resided for some years on the Hinkley place, just over the Benton line, in Haverhill, removing later to Benton to the farm now owned by his nephew, Orman L. Mann. James A. married Hannah, daughter of William and Mary Whitecher, and lived for a time in Newbury, Vt., removing about 1848 to Woburn, Mass., where he died in 1874. His children and grandchildren still reside in Woburn, Medford and Arlington, one daughter, Mrs. Abbie Kendrick, living in Northern Michigan. Edward F. died in early manhood, and George W. lived in Benton until his death in January,



EDWARD F. MANN.

1901. He married first, Susan, daughter of William and Mary Whitecher, who bore him five sons, Ezra B., Edward F., George Henry, Orman L., and Osman C. Ezra B. entered the employ of the Boston, Concord & Montreal railroad, married Ellen S., daughter of George W. and Sarah (Glazier) Bisbee, of Center Haverhill, and settled in Woodsville. After several years service on the road as freight conductor he purchased an interest in the drug store of George S. Cummings, which business he has since continued, and has also been the active promoter of every enterprise which has led to the rapid growth and development of that village. He has served the town of Haverhill on the board of selectmen, has represented it for two years in the legislature, and has been, and is, one of the recognized leaders of the North Country Democracy. He is president of the Woodsville Aqueduct and Electric Light Co., a trustee of the Woodsville Savings Bank from its beginning, and is a large owner of real estate. Edward F. also entered the employ of the railroad before reaching his majority, and at his death in August 1892, was the general superintendent of the Concord and Montreal R. R. system. He was one of the leading Democratic politicians of the state, represented Benton twice in the House, the Second Senatorial district twice in the Senate, and when a candidate for Congress on the Democratic ticket ran largely ahead and was defeated by a narrow majority. No railroad man in recent years enjoyed more the confidence of his associates or greater popularity with the traveling public. He married Elvah G., daughter of Chase and Sarah (Royce) Whitecher, who still resides in Concord. George Henry followed the example of his two brothers and early entered the employ of the railroad, where he was for nearly thirty years freight and passenger conduc-

tor, leaving some two or three years since to engage in mercantile business in Woodsville, where he still resides. He represented Haverhill for one term in the Legislature. Osman C. died in 1870 in his 18th year, but his twin brother, Orman L., is a prosperous and successful farmer in town. He has been active in town affairs and has filled with credit to himself the various town offices. George W. Mann married second, Sarah Bisbee, of Haverhill, who bore him three sons and two daughters. Melvin J. resides in Woodsville, and has for several years been a conductor on the Air line express train, his run being between Concord and Woodsville. Hosea also entered the employ of the railroad, and was a passenger conductor until the spring of 1898, when he left the road to engage in the furniture business in Littleton, where he still resides. Moses B. graduated from the New Hampshire State College, and began the study of law, but at the beginning of the first Cleveland administration was appointed to a clerkship in the naval office in the Boston Custom House. He was subsequently appointed inspector, a position which he still holds. He is married and resides in Malden, Mass. Susan is a successful teacher, and Minnie is the wife of Sims Nutter, and since the death of her father, has resided in Woodsville. George W. Mann spent his entire life in Benton after his father moved there in 1835. He was in his religious faith an ardent Universalist, and in politics a democrat, of whose orthodoxy no question was ever raised. He represented his town in the Legislature several times, and filled all the various town offices. He received his education in the district schools and in Newbury seminary, and was for many years superintendent of schools. He was also for several years, by the appointment of the governor, a member of the State Board of Ag-



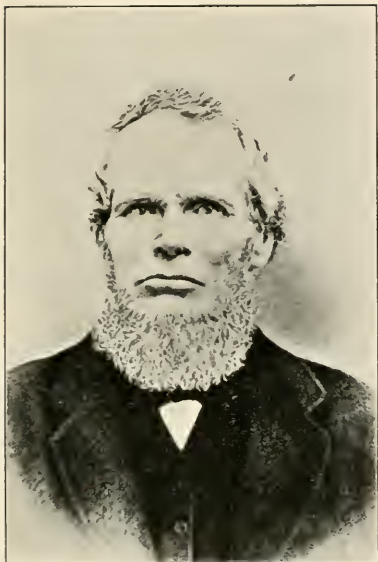
GEORGE W. MANN.

riculture. Of his family of ten children but one, Orman L., now resides in town.

Major Samuel Mann, when he came to town in the latter part of 1834 or 1835, purchased his farm of his brother-in-law, Nathaniel Howe, who died in the latter year. Major Mann was a man of marked peculiarities. He never went with the tide, but in most matters flocked by himself. Coventry—Benton—was a Democratic town; Major Mann was, therefore, a Whig. Nearly all the people of the town attended religious services, Major Mann remained at home. In 1840 the town voted nearly unanimously for a change of name from Coventry to Benton, Major Mann casting one of the two negative votes. He never drifted with the current, but always used two oars and rowed up stream. He was interested in political affairs, but was never a candidate for office. Of his six sons who grew to manhood, and lived as all did to good old age, three, Jesse, Moody and George W. were born politicians and ardent partisans. In caucuses, conventions and campaigns they were in their natural element. They were party men ever and always, never questioning the party label and always voting the straight ticket.

George W. Cogswell lived in town but a few years, but he became more closely identified with the life of the town than many who spent an entire life-time within its limits. He was schoolmaster, teacher of writing schools, farmer, man of business and preacher. During his residence in town, to which he came from Landaff, he resided on the farm now owned by George Bailey. He was ordained a minister of the Free Will Baptist denomination, and by his preaching in barns, farm house kitchens, and school houses gained many adherents to his denomination, and after his return to Landaff was the minister to the Free-Will Baptist

society, which he was more instrumental than any other in organizing, for a period of more than twenty years. He knew nothing of theological schools, was unacquainted with systematic theology, but he knew the people of Coventry and Benton and suited his preaching to their circumstances in life and to their environment. He used plain Anglo-Saxon speech of the homely sort. He illustrated his topics with incidents from the daily life of the people whom he addressed, and his hearers were never at a loss to understand him. He frequently took a round about way to get at the point he wished to make, but he usually arrived. He was quaint, original, and what was of great importance with his Free Will Baptist hearers, he had the sing-song, plaintive minor utterance, which was known among his brethren as "the heavenly tone." Some of his sermons were long remembered. On one occasion he discoursed for an hour or more on the text; "I would not live always." He dwelt at great length on the dissatisfactions, griefs and disappointments of earthly life and gave reason after reason why long continued existence upon this sublunary sphere was undesirable, but finally he summed it all up by saying: "Now brethren, I want to be honest with you, the chief reason why I would not live always is because I know I can't." During the Millerite excitement some of his flock became partial converts to that delusion, causing the Elder great concern. Among these were Deacon Winthrop G. Torsey, who absented himself from the Elder's ministrations for a year or more. At last the Elder was called upon to officiate at a funeral, at which nearly all the people of the town were present, including Deacon Torsey. The Elder did not follow the usual line of remarks customary on such occasions, but proceeded to just "do up" the Millerites in general, and



AMOS WHITCHER.



CHARLES H. WHITCHER.



JAMES E. WHITCHER.



WINTHROP C. WHITCHER.

as everybody recognized, Deacon Torsey in particular. After the services he was questioned by one of the citizens of the town as to why he had adopted this unusual order of service, and his reply was, that somewhat long experience had taught him that "the best time to catch bears was when they was raound." He returned after a few years to Landaff and later to East Landaff, now Easton, where he died at an advanced age. One of his sons, John, is a physician in New Hampton, and others reside in Landaff and Lisbon, where they are influential citizens.

Amos Whitcher, the fourth son of William and Mary Noyes Whitcher, became a voter in 1833, and for more than forty years was an active and useful member of the community. He married Polly Young, of Franconia, and they were the parents of Lucinda C., who married Horace W. Gordon, of Landaff; Amarett A., who married Emery B. White, of Landaff; Charles H., Winthrop C., James E., Florence, who married William C. Young, of Bath, and Albion G. The two eldest daughters removed with their husbands to Stoneham, Mass., and were followed later by the sons. Charles H. was a carpenter and wood worker, and served the town as town clerk for several years before leaving Benton. He married Minerva, daughter of David Bowman, of Benton, and both are deceased. Winthrop C. is a merchant in Stoneham. James E. was a prominent citizen of that town, serving on the board of selectmen, and represented the town for two terms in the Massachusetts Legislature. He died a comparatively young man in 1891. Albion G. lived in Stoneham for several years, but now lives in Barre, Vt. Amarett is still living, the oldest of the grandchildren of William Whitcher. Lucinda C. died in 1871, and Florence V. resides in Bath, the only one of

Amos Whitcher's family now living in New Hampshire. Amos removed with his wife to Stoneham in 1878 or 1879, and died there in the early part of 1880, his wife surviving him a few years. In his early life he followed the trade of cooper, was a captain of the militia. He afterwards became a carpenter and builder, and superintended the erection of numerous large farm buildings, dams, saw mills and potato starch mills. He had great skill in effecting cures of scrofulous and fever sores, was in great demand as a nurse, and was for several years the undertaker for the town, manufacturing the plain pine coffins used before the day of caskets. He was for more than twenty-five years postmaster, and served for several years as town clerk. If there were sick he visited them, if there were mourners he essayed to comfort them, if there were those in trouble he had sympathy for them. He was a Baptist, a "Free Willer" in its most emphatic sense. Other denominations were perhaps well enough in their way, but the one true apostolic church was the Free Will Baptist. He magnified his office of deacon, and never gave countenance to false lights. His keenest enjoyment was found in attendance upon the quarterly and conference meetings of his denomination. His home was a free hotel for Free Will Baptist ministers. He never suffered business, even though most pressing, to interfere with what he regarded his religious privileges and duties. It is perhaps needless to say that he never became a rich man, or even possessed of a modest competence, but that never troubled him. He laid up treasures in heaven.

The year 1835 may be taken as bringing to a close the settlement of Coventry. Thereafter the growth and development was mainly from within. There were some new comers during the next period of thirty-five years, and there

were also those who went to Massachusetts or went west, but the life, social, political and religious, of the town for the next generation was determined for the most part by the families of the first settlers and those who succeeded them in the next generation.

CHAPTER IV.

COMING AND GOING.

The period from 1835 to 1870 was perhaps the most important one in the history of the little mountain town. It was the period of growth and development, and the period in which there was also the beginning of a decadence. The real growth was for the most part from within. There were large families, and the sons of former settlers made homes for themselves near their parents. There were a few new comers who came to stay, but the most of those who came to town came for a brief stay, being properly classed as transients. Immigration was also followed by emigration, and in this latter event the town lost some of its best, most enterprising and substantial citizens. Roads were improved, school houses were erected, a meeting house was built, religious societies were organized, support was given to stated religious worship, manufacturing industries were established, chiefly those of the lumber industries, a semi-weekly mail gave the north part of the town postal facilities, but at a certain point growth ceased and retrogression began. The reasons for this are not far to seek. The opening of the Boston, Concord & Montreal railroad gave better facilities for marketing the products of the farm and forest, especially the latter, and brought the people more into contact with the outside world, and gave the more energetic of the younger element the idea of bettering their fortunes. Then the railroad, which only crossed the town for a short distance on the south-west corner, did not come near enough to its water power to encourage the establishment of manu-

facturing industries aside from those of saw mills and potato starch mills. Benton was still "a back town" and yielded to the fate of back towns. But the chief reason for first a halt, and then decadence, lay in the fact that by the years 1835-50 all the land suitable for agricultural purposes and for the establishment of farm homes had been taken up and much of that which had been cleared was found to yield unsatisfactory results for the toil and labor expended. Even the lumber industry was not largely profitable. The forests and the water power sawmills were miles away from the railroad, and their products had to be hauled long distances over hilly and poor roads. It was not easy for lumbermen to compete with those in other localities where the railroad ran through virgin forests. The older families, however, clung for years to their homes, and while some were emigrating there were also immigrants, and there was a healthy growth and development until the years just after the war of the rebellion.

William Howe came to town in 1835, but shortly after removed to Colebrook, where some of his descendants are still living. Francis Oakes established himself in the east part of the town and remained several years, later removing to Haverhill, and later still to Landaff where he was killed in a brawl by a neighbor, one LaFayette McConnell, about 1859, the assailant being indicted for manslaughter, but securing acquittal on the ground of self defense. Of the sons of Francis Oakes, Harvey and Frank rendered good service in the war of the rebellion, both dying of wounds or disease; Hollis and Nathan are deceased; William is a reputable citizen of Easton, while Philemon P., after various domestic and legal vicissitudes, entanglements in the law, etc., is also a farmer, trader and general utility man in the same town of Easton. "Phil" Oakes has had a varied and somewhat

checquered career, but somehow he has always come out safely from predicaments which would have discouraged anyone else. He is something of a poet, and on town meeting occasions, both in Benton and Easton, he has rendered valuable services to the faction, whose cause he, for the time being, espoused.

Among the new voters in 1836 were: Abijah Wright, his son, Alvah C. Wright, Samuel Witcher, Joseph Annis, Alfred Tyler, James Blake, Rextord Pierce, James A. Mann, James Norris and Daniel Emerson. Abijah Wright settled in the High Street neighborhood, and his two sons, Alvah C. and Gilbert P., became prominent in the affairs of the town. Alvah C. lived for several years on a farm to the west of Enos Wells' sawmill, adjoining the Stow place, was collector of taxes for several years, and in political affairs exercised considerable influence. Gilbert P. Wright, who became a voter in 1837, married Phebe, daughter of Jonathan and Phebe (Howe) Marston, and cleared a farm to the east of that of Winthrop G. Torsey, and adjoining that of Israel Flanders. He subsequently moved to a house he built on the road leading from Bartlett Marston's by the David Clough farm to the Stephen C. Sherman place on the East road, where he lived until he removed to Haverhill about the year 1875. He had a large family of children, none of whom are now residents of Benton. David L. remained in town for several years after his father removed to Haverhill, and another son, Newell C., is a resident of Haverhill, with something of prominence as a Democratic politician, and a veteran of the Spanish war. Gilbert P. Wright was a man of marked peculiarities. Like Moses of old, he was slow of speech, measuring his words with rhythmical precision, but when he had once spoken there was no

doubt as to his meaning. Ira Whitcher used to look after the subscription of his neighbors to that orthodox Democratic organ, the *New Hampshire Patriot*. Gilbert had given Ira the funds to pay a year's subscription, but the paper, for some reason, did not arrive, and this was the message he left one day at the home of Mr. Whitcher: "I want the Squire—when he goes to Concord—to call at the Pa—triot office—and tell them—if my paper does not come—I will not take it—and if they do not send it right away—I—will—stop—it." Gilbert's "Pa—triot" came the next week, and ever thereafter, so long as he kept his subscription paid. He was a member of the Free Will Baptist church, served as selectman, and was an industrious, useful citizen.

Samuel Whitcher was the fifth son of William and Mary (Noyes) Whitcher. He purchased what was afterwards known as the Stephen C. Sherman farm, and in May 1840, married Emily Quimby, of Lisbon. He resided in Benton until about 1845, when he removed to East Landaff, now Easton, where he died in October, 1879. Of the children of Samuel, Lydia is the wife of W. Harvey Polley, of Quebec, P. Q.; Betsey S. is the wife of William Kendall, of Benton; David S. died in early manhood at Littleton, where he was engaged in the practice of law; Daniel J. is a leading citizen of Easton, a member of the New Hampshire Legislature 1878-79; Charles O. lives in Woodsville; and Susan E., was the wife of George H. Clark, of Benton, and died in April, 1900.

Joseph Annis came from Bath and settled on the William Coolidge farm which had subsequently been owned by Moses Knight. He died Jan. 5, 1859, at the age of 76, and his wife, Betsey Currier, of Bath, died in 1865, aged 77. Of

his children, Samuel C. Annis was a life long resident of the town, dying in 1899, at the age of 84. Of the children of Samuel C. and Mary F. (Smith) Annis, George W. lives in the west; Milo H. is a veteran locomotive engineer in the employ of the Boston & Maine R. R., residing in Woodsville; and a daughter, Anna, is the wife of Paul M. Howe, of Haverhill. John S. Annis, another son of Samuel C., died in Benton in 1902, in his fifty-first year. Perley M. Annis, son of Joseph and Betsey, resided in Benton until 1856, when he removed to Stoneham, Mass. William H. Annis died at the age of 65, in 1897; and George G. Annis removed to Groton, Vt., soon after attaining his majority. One of the daughters of Joseph Annis, Betsey J., married William F. Morse and removed with her husband to Thornton in 1854. There were other daughters, Ruth, Rachael and Mary, who removed from town early in life.

Col. James Norris was the eldest son of Abraham and Polly Norris, the only one of the Norris sons who was a life long resident of the town. Abraham Norris died in 1840, in his fifty-ninth year. James learned the trade of carpenter and joiner and followed this occupation until shortly before his death in 1890, at the age of 77. In his early life he was interested in military affairs, and attained the rank of Colonel in the militia. He served for two years as town clerk and was for many years collector of taxes. He married when in middle life, Miss Georgianna S. Dean, of Lancaster, but the marriage was an unhappy one, ending a few years later in divorce, the cause being the total unfitness for each other of two very excellent people. In his later years his older sister, Martha, who died in 1888 at the age of 82, was his housekeeper. Martha Norris was for some years the tailoress of the town, visiting the various families in

turn, and constructing from the homespun of the day, garments for the boys of the family. This was before the days of "store clothes." Martha was not an expert in styles. She had one pattern which she adapted as best she could to the boys of various ages and sizes. The cloth was strong, and she took honest stitches. There are now old boys who remember with mingled emotions the garments they wore in their boyhood, fashioned and constructed by the honest hands of Martha Norris. They had tremendous wearing qualities. David M. Norris, another son of Abraham and Polly passed most of his life in town. He was thrice married. By his first marriage he had twin daughters, Harriet and Helen, who inherited many of the peculiarities of the Norris family. David had a quick, jerky manner of speech, and his opinions were expressed in a manner not to be misunderstood. One winter there had been quite protracted revival services with many conversions, but David, though attending many of the meetings, was unmoved. In the following spring he was at work for Ira Whitcher engaged in cleaning forest lands. He was found one evening by his employer standing apparently in deep meditation before a huge pile of burning hardwood logs. Turning and pointing to the blazing heat he said: "According to some folks tell, Ira, I s'pose hell's just as much hotter than that as you can think, but d——d if I believe it. A man couldn't live in it two minnits." Merrill Norris, another son of Abraham, emigrated to Michigan. Joseph Dean Norris married a daughter of Sewell Waterman, of Bath, and established himself as a carpenter and builder in Swiftwater, Bath, where he lived until his death in 1901.

Nathan Howe died early in 1835, at the age of 42. His wife was Rachael Coburn, twin sister of Nathan Coburn, who removed from town with his sister in the autumn of

1835. Mrs. Howe subsequently married Isaac Bickford, and died in 1862, and was buried in Benton, in the west cemetery by the side of her first husband. Their children were: Nathan Coburn, born Sept. 17, 1817; Stedman Willard, born Apr. 21, 1822; Ira Goodall, born May 19, 1826 and Kimball Tyler, born May 19, 1828. All removed to Massachusetts, where they died, leaving families, except Ira G., who, in 1843, at the age of seventeen, went west to grow up with the country. He went into the valley of the Wabash, settling at Lafayette, Ind. It was a heavily timbered, well watered section with a rich and fertile soil, well covered with oak, beech and black walnut. The river was the dividing line between the timber lands of Indiana and the prairie country extending westward across the Mississippi to the Rocky Mountains. The locality was then but thinly settled, most of the land still belonging to the government; now it is one of the finest farming and manufacturing sections in Indiana, many of the farms being worth from, \$100 to \$150 per acre. Mr. Howe found employment in a store until he reached his majority, when he entered into mercantile business, both his partner and himself becoming very successful. His partner subsequently founded Purdue University. At the age of fifty Mr. Howe gave up this business, engaging in farming, which he has since continued, and now in his 79th year still has the oversight of his 2700 acres of well stocked farms. In 1856 he married Nancy Jennings, of Framingham, Mass. They have two children, a daughter, the wife of William A. Shipley, of Lafayette, and a son, who is in business with his brother-in-law in Lafayette, the firm name being Howe & Shipley.

Nathan Coburn was the most important member of the Coburn family, who came to Coventry from Piermont, was



IRA G. HOWE.

one of the selectmen and town clerk at the time of his removal, and had several times represented the town in the Legislature. He was a man of fine presence, of good education, and his removal was a loss long felt. He married Mary Parker, of Lisbon, a daughter of the late Levi Parker, a leading citizen of that town, and their large family of children were born in Coventry. They were: Nathan Parker, born Feb. 6, 1817; Levi Parker, born May 12, 1819; Alonzo, born October 16, 1821; Lydia W., born July 23, 1823; James Fisk, born Nov. 26, 1825; Benjamin Franklin, born Nov. 13, 1827; Mary Jane, born March 24, 1830; Sally Ann, born Sept. 20, 1832, and Daniel Jenness, born May 15, 1835. His sons all became successful business men in their adopted state. The eldest, Nathan Parker Coburn, amassed a large fortune in the boot and shoe manufacture, being a partner of ex-Governor William Claflin, the Claflin & Coburn factories being situated in Hopkinton. He was numbered among the millionaires of the state, but his native town had a warm spot in his heart, and he never forgot the old school house at the foot of the long hill in district No. 5, with George W. Cogswell as school master. Nathan Coburn lived in a house standing a little to the south of the George W. Mann house, which has long since disappeared, and only faint traces of the cellar can now be seen.

Edward and William Lothar came to town from Newbury, Vt., in 1836 and settled on the hill to the west of Enos Wells, their farms subsequently being purchased by John Stow and Alvah C. Wright. They remained in town but a few years, and returned to Newbury, Vt. Edward H. Lothar, of Woodsville, is a son of Edward Lothar, and a daughter is the wife of Albert H. Leighton, of Woodsville.

Other new voters in 1837 were Joseph Webber, Elijah S. Gray, Elisha Meader, Henry Thrasher, Jeremiah Merrill, Asa W. Merrill, Jonas G. Brown, Samuel C. Annis, Gilbert P. Wright and Ira Whitcher. Elisha Meader soon after removed to Haverhill, where he spent his life, and his sons and grandsons were numbered among the influential citizens of the town. Asa W. Merrill married a daughter of Benj. C. Hutchins and lived with his family for the greater part of his life in the east part of the town, for a number of years on a farm to the eastward of that of Israel Flanders. Such of his family as are now living have become widely scattered. Mention has already been made of Jonas G. Brown, Samuel C. Annis and Gilbert P. Wright.

Ira Whitcher was the seventh child, and the sixth of the ten sons of William and Mary Noyes Whitcher. He was born Dec. 2, 1815, and died Dec 9, 1897. His early life was one of the hardships of poverty, unceasing toil, and of educational advantages the most limited. In a few weeks in a backwoods school for two or three winters, he learned to read, write and cipher, and there his school education ended. There were few or no books accessible, and had there been a well stocked library, it would have made little difference, since he had little time for reading. He did however, have access to the Town Officer and a copy of the New Hampshire statutes owned by his father, the Bible, Webster's spelling book and one or two of the old time readers, and by the time he reached his majority he knew these few books, and with the aid of these had obtained a more practical, if not more liberal education than some of the young men of his age who had attached to their names the degree of A. B. On reaching the age of twenty-one he hired out to his brother Moses, for whom he worked six years for the



IRA WHITCHER.

compensation of twelve and a half dollars a month and board. He picked up enough by extra jobs to purchase his clothes, and saved his entire wages, purchasing the farm on which he lived until the spring of 1870, and building the house on which he established his home on his marriage in the autumn of 1843. He became administrator of the estate of his brother Moses at his death in 1846, engaged in the business of lumbering, farming becoming a secondary consideration, and followed this successfully to the time of his death. He was elected one of the selectmen in 1842, and for the next twenty-nine years, until his removal from town was constantly in its service, holding at various times every possible town office, except those of grave digger and superintending school committee. It is not too much to say that for a period of a quarter of a century no citizen was so thoroughly identified with the interests of the town as was he, and no one individual did as much for its prosperity. He was thrifty, and practiced rigid economy, and was at the same time generous and open handed. He believed in liberal appropriations for roads, schools and other matters of interest to the town, and was a liberal supporter of religious meetings. He identified himself with the Methodist Episcopal church, and was a life long supporter of its institutions. At the same time he was no sectarian, and all religious denominations had his hearty support. He represented Benton six times in the Legislature, served for six years as one of the commissioners of Grafton county, was a member of Constitutional convention of 1850, was the agent for the town for a series of years in the management of its law suits and was frequently appointed referee in cases to be settled out of court. There was no member of the bar residing in Benton, so for a period of twenty-five years he

did much of the work for his townsmen for which in the large towns legal talent was employed. He was a conveyancer, writer of wills, administrator and executor of estates, guardian of minors and of insane, and legal advisor in small and in large cases as well, and for the most part without money and without price. The late Attorney General, Daniel Barnard, once remarked that he regarded Ira Witcher to be one of the best lawyers in the state, and that he knew of few men in the profession whose opinion in an important case he would value more highly. In 1870 Mr. Witcher removed to Woodsville in order to be close to railroad communication, but retained and added to his landed interests in Benton, until a few years before his death he sold several thousand acres to the Winnepesaukee and the Fall Mountain Paper companies. Woodsville in 1870 was little more than a struggling collection of a dozen houses, a store and a railroad station. To him, more than to any other individual, was due its growth and prosperity during the next twenty-five years. He was himself successful in business, accumulating a handsome property, but he possessed also a broad public spirit. He was largely instrumental in securing for the village the water works and electric light service, the removal of the county seat from Haverhill Corner to Woodsville, and the erection of the substantial new court house, which was built under his personal supervision, the establishment of the Savings and National banks, while the Woodsville Free Public Library building, a Methodist church property freed from debt, the gift of a fine pipe organ and a fund for the support of the church are among the monuments left by him. After removing to Woodsville he made himself an active factor in Haverhill town life, serving for several years on the board of selectmen, and representing the town in

1891, when in his 76th year, in the Legislature. In politics Mr. Whitcher was a Democrat, of the Andrew Jackson school. During the Civil war he was an ardent supporter of the war measures of the Administration, and gave of his time and energy to keep full the quota of soldiers from his town where opposition to the war was rife. His integrity was never questioned, and his tenacity of purpose was such that he knew no such word as failure in the accomplishment of his plans.

He married, Nov. 27, 1843, Lucy, daughter of Samuel and Dorcas (Foster) Royce, of Haverhill, and their four children were born in Benton; William Frederick, August 10, 1845; Mary Elizabeth, July 16, 1847; Frank, June 21, 1849, and Scott, Nov. 2, 1852. The daughter became the wife of Chester Abbott, and remained with her father, giving him in his old age devoted care and attention until her death in April, 1897. The two younger sons died in early manhood, Scott, Jan. 22, 1875, and Frank, who had associated himself in business with his father, Nov. 7, in the same year. William F. prepared for college at Tilton seminary, graduated from Wesleyan University in 1871, entered the ministry of the Methodist Episcopal church, filling important pastorates in Newport and Providence, R. I., and New Bedford, Mass., until 1881, when he joined the editorial staff of the *Boston Traveller*, becoming editor-in-chief four years later. In 1892 he became literary editor of the *Boston Daily Advertiser*, and three years later assumed the charge of the Court reports, which have for many years been a special feature of that paper. On the death of his father in 1897 he resigned his newspaper position and in the spring of 1898 removed his family to Woodsville, where he has since resided. Besides devoting himself to the affairs of the

estate of his father, he is the editor and proprietor of the Woodsville News, and has taken an active part in the affairs of the village and town, representing Haverhill in the Legislature in 1901, and 1903, serving each session on the committee on the judiciary. He is interested in historical and genealogical studies, and his collection of books bearing upon American political history and biography is one of the largest and valuable in this state.

Several new names appeared on the list of voters in 1838. Among those who moved into town, but whose stay was brief, so that they could hardly be regarded as factors in the life of the town were ; Lorenzo D. Cummings, John Cummings and Benj. Little, who lived for a time on the Meadows and at High Street. The Rev. Geo. Davis lived for a short time near his brothers, Nathan B. and Jonathan in the east part of the town. William Gannett acquired the Jonathan Hale farm and lived there several years, a bustling, enterprising man of affairs. About 1855 he sold this large tract of more than a thousand acres to the Boston, Concord & Montreal railroad, and removed to East Haverhill, owning until his death the large farm now owned by Alonzo Smith. Levi Whitcher, David M. Howe, Bartlett Marston and David M. Norris were voters for the first time this year. Both Davids were of course namesakes of David Marston. Levi Whitcher was the eldest son of Jacob and Sarah (Richardson) Whitcher. He was a deaf mute, but obtained a fair education, learned the sign language, married and removed to Quincy, Mass., where he resided until his death. He had several children, and his descendants still live in Quincy and adjoining towns and cities in Massachusetts. Some of them have reverted to the original way of spelling the family name, Whittier. Caleb Knight was



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a son of Moses Knight, but he removed soon after attaining his majority to East Haverhill, living there until his death about 1870. His descendants are now widely scattered.

David Marston Howe was the son of Peter and Mary (Powers) Howe, born March 9, 1817. Peter Howe was married to Mary Powers Nov. 22, 1812, and of the four children the two eldest were daughters. Sally, born July 22, 1813, married a Streeter and lived in Lisbon. Phebe, born Feb. 24, 1815, married first Edwin, son of Kimball and Sally (Streeter) Tyler, by whom she had one son, Isaac H., and second, Moses N. Howland, of Landaff. The youngest son, Moses Whitcher Howe, married Laura C. White, daughter of Jacob M. White, of Landaff. He resided with his parents for some years after his marriage, but later purchased the farm now owned by Orman L. Mann, residing there till about 1866, when he removed to Stoneham, Mass., where he was killed a year or two later by a runaway team. He left two sons, Herbert P. and Harry, both born in Benton, and both now residing in Stoneham. David M. Howe married first Betsey, daughter of Kimball and Sally (Streeter) Tyler, born Aug. 20, 1818. Two years previous to his removal to Stoneham, Mass., about 1821, he resided on the farm subsequently owned by his brother Moses. He married second Mrs. Ann Parker, of Stoneham, who survives him. He was a thrifty, quiet, industrious citizen, and his removal from town was deeply regretted by his fellow townsmen.

Granville E. Flanders, whose name first appeared on the check list in 1839, lived for some twenty years on what is now known as the David Dickey farm at High Street and which was then one of the finest farms in town. James Blake, Joseph Blake, Maturin B. Hall, Rufus Hall, Chase

Cawley and Alexander Pollard were also new comers in this and in the previous year, living in the Page district and on the Meadows. The name of Samuel Coburn also appears on the check list this year, but none of these appear to have remained long in town.

Peter Howe 2nd came on the active stage of affairs in 1839, and remained in a state of activity until his death at the age of 66, in 1880. The word "active" is perhaps a misnomer, since such activity as it was, never resulted in any valuable accomplishment. He married in 1839 Harriette W., daughter of Elisha Tyler, and settled on a farm to the south of that of his father and to the east of that of his brother Samuel. Peter was a character. As a boy he was troublesome to his father, and "Uncle Daniel" was accustomed to call him a "pesky rogue." The name stuck, and he was known during his entire life as "Pesky Peter" or "Pesky Pete." His farm was naturally one of the most productive on Howe hill, but Peter never assisted nature. He was never guilty of work except on rare occasions when he was forced to it by stern necessity. His farm consequently went to ruin, his stock was only half housed and half fed, and Peter was usually on the road behind a half starved horse endeavoring to trade in something with somebody, it made little difference to him what or with whom. He was fertile in schemes of speculation, all of which were of an inconsequential character, and it is to be doubted if he ever at any one time in his life possessed the sum of five dollars in cash. He was always willing to obtain credit, and was profuse in promises to pay, and storekeepers for miles about his native town were familiar with "Pesky Peter." He would journey ten miles to East Landaff to secure a cat of a certain color and transport it twenty

miles to Wells River, Vt., with the understanding that he would receive a dollar for it, should it prove satisfactory. He attended auctions and funerals and other festivities wherever a free dinner was to be had. He was the victim of all kinds of practical jokes, some of which were heartlessly cruel, just because he was "Pesky Peter." His first wife was an inoffensive woman, but was not what her neighbors regarded as "capable." She bore him three children, suffered from hardship and poverty and gave up the contest in 1856, at the age of 37. Peter found a second helpmeet in the person of Emily Merrill, of Woodstock, who managed somehow to survive him. Emily was not brilliant, but she had spirit, and there were times and occasions when Peter was forced to bestir himself and actually work. His eldest son, Rufus W., died in 1864 at the age of 25. His two daughters, Ellen and Lucina, married and are living in California. A son by the second wife, Harry L., a young man of much promise, was killed while in the employ of the Boston & Maine railroad, at the age of 22. Peter was also something of a matrimonial agent. One of his efforts in this direction was when he secured a wife for "Nat" Mulliken, the consideration being an ox yoke and one dollar cash.

John C. Brown, John Stow, Jr., and Laban Tyler were voters for the first time this year. The latter remained but a short time in town, removing to Stoneham, Mass., where he remained until about 1855, when he went to Michigan. One Waite Brown, a halfwitted ne'er-do-well, was also a resident in town for two or three years, but soon removed to Haverhill, just a little west of the Amos M. Pike farm on the road to North Haverhill, where he managed to eke out an existence for himself and family, and had time to dwell on love and manufacture poetry, such as it was.

William K. Bruce came to town when a boy with William Keyser. He lived after reaching manhood on the farm now occupied by the widow of Charles B. Keyser, and died May 7, 1858, at the age of 37. He became a voter in 1830, as did William Howe 2nd. The latter was a son of Daniel and Phebe (Eaton) Howe. He was subject to attacks of insanity, and was three or four times an inmate of an insane asylum. He emigrated with his family to Michigan sometime in the fifties. Hazen Whitcher was a son of Jacob and Sarah (Richardson) Whitcher. He married Sally, daughter of Kimball and Sally (Streeter) Tyler, and settled on a farm to the south of that of Samuel Howe, and which is still known as the Hazen Whitcher place. After some years he removed to Stoneham, Mass., and established himself in the hardware business, subsequently adding to this that of undertaking. Both he and his wife lived to an advanced age, the latter being about 90 at the time of her death in 1899. They left one daughter, Sarah Richardson, the wife of Col. Oliver H. Marston, of Stoneham. Hazen Whitcher served his adopted town in various official positions, was a successful business man, and left at his death a handsome estate.

James Harriman and wife came from Warren to the farm in the High Street district since known as the Harriman farm, where he resided several years, returning finally to Warren Summit where they resided until their death. Mr. Harriman was a quiet, easy going sort of a man, but what he lacked in push, energy and bustling activity was more than made up by Mrs. Harriman. She was a member of the famous Pike family, a sister of Isaac, Samuel and Arthur L. Pike, and was a woman of marked personality and character. She combined all the tenderness and sympathy

of womanhood with the physical strength and hard headed business ability of manhood, and had the thorough respect of the business men of the surrounding towns with whom she was associated in many important transactions.

New names appearing on the check list in 1841 were those of Moulton B. Richardson, Stephen Bailey, Edward Martin, David Young, Jr., Stephen Jeffers, Jr., David Bailey, Ebenezer Glover and Hosea Litchfield. The latter lived on the farm which had been owned by Jacob Witcher, and which later came into the possession of Charles M. Howe. In 1842 the new names were those of Benjamin Elliott, Kimball Corliss, Ephriam Cross, George Morton, Bailey Martin, Seldon Willey, George W. Mann, Hiram Elliott, Joshua Page and Reuben Richardson. Benjamin Elliott spent most of his life in Landaff, but at two or three different times resided in Benton. He had a large family, but only one of his sons, Hiram, was ever a resident of the town. A daughter was the wife of Daniel Burnham, who resided in town for several years, as did one of his sons, William H. Burnham. Benjamin Elliott was not always strictly temperate in his habits, and he had the reputation of drawing the long bow, or in other words, of being prone to exaggeration. In the old days when minor cases were tried before justices of the peace, it was remarked that Ira Goodall, of Bath, made frequent use of Thomas Elliott and Benjamin Elliott as witnesses. Benjamin one day, when feeling in a communicative mood, made this boast: "Give us Squire Swan for justice, Squire Goodall for lawyer, and me and my brother Tom for evidence, and we'll beat all h——ll."

In 1843 the names of Milton Southard, John Nason, Samuel Pike, Asa F. Copp, Jeremiah Farnum, Perley M. Annis, Isaac Wyman and Chase Witcher 2nd appear for the

first time on the voting list. Chase Whitcher 2nd was the son of William and Mary (Noyes) Whitcher, born Jan. 20, 1822. On attaining his majority he was employed by his brother Moses, and after the death of the latter had the management of the large farm belonging to the estate. He married Sarah Royce Whitcher, the widow of his brother Moses, and they were the parents of three children. One, Hannah, died in infancy; Frances C. born Aug. 22, 1849, died in Woodsville Oct. 4, 1889; Elvah G., born Nov. 19, 1850, married Hon. Edward F. Mann, and has resided, since the death of her husband, Aug. 19, 1892, in Concord. Chase Whitcher was one of the most active citizens of the town un'til his removal to Concord in 1875. He was engaged in the lumber business in partnership with his brother Ira until about 1857, and subsequently conducted successfully a large lumber business on his own account. He owned in whole or in part several sawmills in East Landaff, now Easton, as well as in Benton, and was also a large owner of real estate. Of a generous, impulsive disposition, with warm sympathy for those in distress, or in need of financial assistance, he was the constant helper of many who in their shiftlessness and improvidence abused his friendship and generosity. He became involved in later years in expensive litigations which seriously affected the value of his otherwise large property. He represented Benton six times in the State Legislature, in 1852, 1853, 1865, 1866, 1869, and 1870, and was during a period of twenty-five years almost continuously in the service of the town in various capacities, such as town clerk, postmaster and selectman. He was always ready to promote any project for the interest of the town. He had a deep interest in politics, was active in the councils of his party, the Democratic, and enjoyed a



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large acquaintance with politicians and public men. While never charged with disloyalty, he was one of the large number of Democrats, who during the war of the Rebellion, was not in hearty sympathy of the war measures of the Administration. He removed to Concord in 1875, erecting a house on Court street, now owned by his daughter, Mrs. Edward F. Mann. His last illness occurred in Benton, where he had retained large property interests, and he died there in his old home May 4, 1883 at the age of 61.

In 1844 the voting list contained a large number of new names. These were: Samuel Royce, Geo. T. Banfield, Moses W. Tyler, Elisha Tyler, Jr., John E. Keyser, Caleb Brown, William F. Morse, Jona Clement, James P. Flanders, Jonathan Merrill and William Eastman. Moses W. Tyler was the son of Kimball and Sally (Streeter) Tyler. He went to Stoneham, Mass., for several years, but returned to Benton about 1865, remaining for three or four years, when he returned to Stoneham, and a little later removed with his family to the west. His wife was a daughter of Prescott Parker. William F. Morse married Betsey Annis, and was for several years the town blacksmith, his shop being located on the Annis farm near the meeting house. He removed about 1852 to Thornton. Samuel Royce was the son of Stephen Royce, of Landaff, born in 1782. He married Dorcas Foster, of that town, and lived in Landaff and Haverhill until after the death of his wife in 1842, when he came to Benton and resided for a few years with some one of his daughters. Of his six daughters five married. Merab was the wife of Samuel Howe; Sarah, the wife of Moses, afterwards of Chase Whitcher; Lucy, the wife of Ira Whitcher; Hannah, the wife of Aaron P. Glazier, and Lydia, the wife of Moses Noyes of Haverhill. Mr. Royce

subsequently removed to Nashua, married Elizabeth Searle, but on her death returned to Benton about 1870, living with his daughter until his death, Sept. 5, 1873, at the age of 91. He was a man of wide and varied reading, of good education, but impractical and visionary in business matters. He bore a life of poverty cheerfully, was an ardent Methodist, with a gift for exhortation, and was one of the early pioneer abolitionists. He never fretted, never permitted debts or poverty to give him anxious thought, and during his long life was a happy optimist. Perhaps this accounted for his ninety-one years of life, free until the last from pain and sickness.

John E. Keyser was the eldest son of William Keyser. He married Mahala, daughter of William and Polly (Wells) Flanders, and with the exception of absences on two or three occasions, when he spent two or three years in Stoneham and Lynn, Mass., he resided in Benton until his death, Jan. 7, 1896, at the age of 73. He was a carpenter and joiner by trade, but in his later years he followed farming, owning the Israel Flanders farm. For years he was chorister and leader of the Benton choir, a position in which he took great pride, and in which, while he occupied it, he never permitted his authority to be questioned without a ruction, and there were sometimes ructions. From 1843 till his death, thirty-five years and more later, William Eastman was one of the best known citizens of the town. He had been unsuccessful in business in Lisbon, and unfortunate in a love affair, and he came to Benton and built a clapboard mill near the dwelling house of Amos Whitcher on Whitcher brook in "the Hollow," and here for a period of nearly thirty years he manufactured spruce clapboards. He never married, though until late in life he talked much of taking

to himself a wife when he found the right person. He built himself a good house, one of the best in town, finished it completely, but occupied it alone for many years, cooking his simple meals himself. This was not because he was averse to society, for no man was fonder of it than he, and no one was more welcome in the social circles of young people than "Uncle Billy" with his violin. He was a fine bass singer, and for years was always to be found in the choir gallery on Sundays, where he used to sing, as he expressed it, "with the spirit and the understanding also." He had a song reciting the old time campmeeting experiences which he was sometimes persuaded to sing to the great delight of his audiences, and there are many elderly people who recall the delight with which they listened to "Uncle Billy's" description of "the bumble bee with his tail cut off." His clapboard mill gave him a profitable business, and he would have become a comparatively wealthy man had he invested with care and prudence the profits of his business, but, himself the soul of honor, he found it difficult to believe that any of his fellow men were dishonest, and he became the easy prey of the designing and unscrupulous. His old age was one of poverty and hardship, ill deserved after his long life of simple, plain living and unremitting toil. He died Aug. 6, 1879, in his 86th year. Poor "Uncle Billy"!

Edwin Tyler, son of Kimball, and Jesse M. Brown, son of John, became voters in 1845, but soon left town, the former going to Massachusetts, and the latter seeking his fortunes in Michigan. Burton French also lived in town for two or three years, and his thousand and more large sugar maples to the east of Tunnel stream on the side of Moosilauke, were for many years one of the famous sugar camps of the section. He married Eliza, daughter of Jeremiah B.

and Susan (Tyler) Davis, and lived later on a small farm near French pond in Haverhill. Other new comers were Ambrose Merrill, William Bacon, Samuel Randall, Jonathan Hunkings, Joseph Whiteman and Nicholas Whiteman. William Bacon, better known as "Bill" Bacon, was long remembered for a prayer he offered in a protracted meeting the night of his conversion. He and a chum of his, Ben Elliott, rough fellows of the ungodly sort, came to the meeting to scoff, but, as it turned out, remained to pray. "Bill" got under deep conviction, went to the mourner's bench, was converted and immediately became anxious concerning his friend Ben, and prayed for him thus: "O Lord, there is a great sinner here to-night, Ben Elliott; if he dies before morning he'll surely go to hell, which favor we ask, Amen." Ben was converted that same night. Jonathan Hunkings came from the southern part of the state, and settled on the Tunnel stream to the south of the John C. Brown farm, where he erected a saw mill, cleared a farm and erected the house where the Parker House, a summer hotel, now stands. Mr. Hunkings was a man of good education, and was a valuable addition to the citizenship of the town. He was a Whig in politics, and afterwards a Republican, and though the town was overwhelmingly Democratic, he was frequently elected to town offices, serving as superintending school committee and selectman. Failing in health he sold his mill and farm about 1865 and removed to Haverhill, where he died Aug. 5, 1866, aged 67. Of his three sons Harvey A. died in early manhood, Joseph resided in Laconia, and Thomas H. removed west. A daughter, Clara J., married and removed to California, and another daughter, Olive A., the widow of James Page, still resides in town on the James J. Page homestead in the west part of the town.

In 1846 the new names on the voting list were : John G. Buswell, son of John Buswell, John L. Stevens, Sylvester Eastman, James Eastman, James A. Cox, son of James H. Cox, Daniel Burnham, Sewall Waterman, J. Dean Norris, Elijah Curtis and David Young, Jr. Sylvester Eastman was a grandson of Obadiah Eastman, a first settler. Except for a few years spent in northern New York he lived in Benton, first on a small farm on Howe hill, and later, until his death, Jan. 19, 1860, at the age of 45, in the house now owned and occupied by Orman L. Mann. He married Louisa, eldest daughter of William and Mary (Noyes) Whitecher, and of their three children, George E. resides at North Haverhill ; Ruth J. is the wife of Charles A. Veazey, of Benton, and William has always resided in town and has been active and prominent in town affairs, serving as town clerk, collector of taxes and selectman, and member of the Constitutional Convention of 1888.

Myron Bailey, who became a voter in 1847, resided with his mother on the farm now owned by George Bailey. He married a daughter of Samuel Peters, of Haverhill, lived on the Peters farm for several years and removed to Bethlehem. David Clough came to town from Bath and lived during the latter part of his life on the farm lying on the road running south-east from the Stephen C. Sherman farm. He died Sept. 27, 1865, at the age of 62. One son, Chester C. Clough married Marium, daughter of Jonas G. and Angelina (Whiteman) Brown, lived for several years on a farm adjoining that of his father-in-law, but after the death of his wife removed to Lisbon, where he still resides. Another son, Merrill Clough, resides on the Lime Kiln road in Haverhill. The names of Elisha Clement, Samuel Angier, Jonathan Clement, Darius K. Davis, James P. Tyler and

Horace Ames also appear on the voting list in this year.

In 1848 Thomas F. Cox, son of James H. Cox, Silas M. Welch, son of Jonathan Welch, and Daniel Whitcher became voters for the first time, and new comers in town whose names appeared on the voting list were: John W. White-man, Walter Mulliken, Horace Bailey, Willis Chase, John Webber, Moses McConnell, Wilson Weed, Calvin Bailey, Samuel Morrill, Lyman Page and Cornelius Carr. Daniel Whitcher was the ninth son of William and Mary (Noyes) Whitcher, and was an active personality in the affairs of the town during his residence there, and continued his activity in the towns of his subsequent residence, Landaff and Bath. He was born Jan. 20, 1827, and died in Bath in March, 1894. On reaching his majority he associated himself with his father who then resided on the farm now owned by Birt Cox. They were also owners of a sawmill in Landaff on the Wild Ammonoosuc, where they afterwards lived, and where a hamlet grew up subsequently known as Whitcherville. A starch mill was built here, and Mr. Whitcher was for several years quite extensively engaged in the manufacture of potato starch, not only at this mill, but at several other mills, which he owned in part or wholly, in Bath and Haverhill. A tannery was also built which was in successful operation for several years, as was also a country store which he opened and conducted. He became the chief party in the litigation with the towns of Landaff and Bath over the petition for a highway down the Wild Ammonoosuc from the County road in Landaff to Swiftwater village in Bath, known as the "Bunga road" litigation, which ended successfully in the laying out and construction of the road in 1860. This was perhaps the most famous road case ever known in northern New Hampshire, and there is little doubt



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that the towns involved on the one hand, and the petitioners on the other, expended enough money in the fifteen years of litigation to have built the road two or three times over. The Bunga road controversy was a dominant factor in the politics of several towns for years, and much bitterness of feeling was engendered. Aside from this, however, Daniel Whitcher was a born litigant, and there was hardly a court docket for a period of a quarter of a century in which his name did not appear as plaintiff or defendant in one or more suits. He was always aggressive, resourceful, never a quitter, and usually a winner. Upon the decadence of the potato starch industry, and the abandonment of the tannery business he moved from Whitcherville to Bath, purchasing the large farm near "Rum Hill," and carried on an extensive lumber business until a short time before his death. He was interested in the affairs of the town, and was the prime mover in the establishment of the Unitarian church in Bath and in the erection of the house of worship. He was an ardent and devoted advocate of the Unitarian faith. In politics he was a Democrat. He represented Benton in the Legislature in 1858 and 1859, his election each time being the result of a heated "Bunga road" campaign in which he won out by a single vote over the late George W. Mann. Later he represented Landaff in the same body, after spending the energy of years and much money in fighting that town in the Bunga road case, and its successful efforts to secure a division of the town. His business ventures were generally successful and lucrative, but he never became a wealthy man. Litigation is a costly luxury. He married Nancy R. Knight, the daughter of Mrs. Catherine Knight, who had become the second wife of his father, William Whitcher. They were the parents of nine children, five of whom are living. Four

of the daughters are living in Massachusetts, and one, the wife of William V. Ashley, resides in Woodsville.

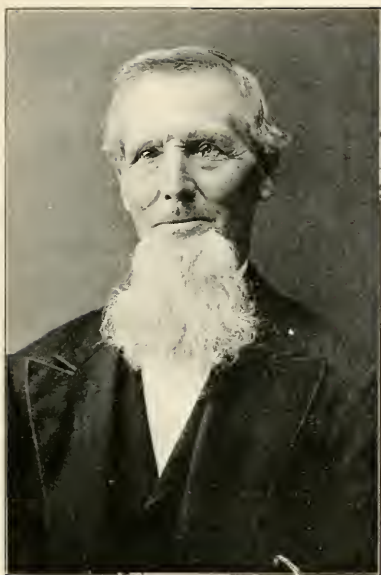
Among the new voters in 1849 were Abel S. E. B. Davis, son of Nathan B. Davis; Caleb Wells, son of Enos Wells; Leonard J. Brown, son of Richard Brown; and William T. Torsey, son of Winthrop G. Torsey. The former remained but a few years in town, and removed to Indianapolis, Ind., where he still resides. Leonard J. Brown, while retaining a voting residence in town until his father, as previously mentioned, removed to Bath, spent the most of his time in Concord, employed at his trade of stone cutter. William T. Torsey married first Irene, daughter of Jonathan and Lydia (Batchelder) Davis, and resided first on a farm adjoining that of his father, and then, until his death, in March, 1894, at the age of 66, on the farm on the East road now owned by Solomon J. Hutchins. He married second Hannah, widow of Noah C. Hutchins. He served several years on the board of selectmen and filled various other town offices. Caleb Wells was a prominent figure in town affairs until his removal to Haverhill about 1869. He was educated in the schools of the town, and at Newbury Seminary, and was active in church work, and in all other matters pertaining to the social and educational welfare of the town. He was for many years superintending school committee, tax collector, and served several years on the board of selectmen. He represented the town in the Legislature in 1867 and 1868, and for a period of twenty years was one of the leading citizens of the town. Always interested in political matters he has taken prominent part in the affairs of his adopted town, serving on its board of selectmen, and is still one of the leaders of the Haverhill Democracy. He has the same untiring persistence which characterized his father in

political matters, and his political opponents have learned that it is unsafe to leave him out of their reckoning in contests.

The names of Daniel Wilson, Amos Wilson, Hezekiah Morse, Charles Gifford, Francis Dwyer, David Chase, Nathan Chase and Raymond Page appear this same year for the first time. Charles Gifford was of Scotch ancestry, and had all the Scotch thrift. He settled on a small farm on the hill road leading from the No. 5 school house. He was a rigid Presbyterian, a quiet, God fearing man of the old puritanical school. His eldest daughter, Mary, was the wife of Francis Dwyer, who came to town with him, and who resided at first on the farm on the old road to North Haverhill, now owned by Lucetta Tyler, of Stoneham, and whose large family of children were all born in Benton, but are now widely scattered. Francis Dwyer was for many years the only Irishman in this town, peopled by those of English blood. He spent some years in California, and on his return purchased the farm now owned by George Bailey. Another daughter of Charles Gifford, Laura, married John W. Gray, of Easton, and a son, John O. Gifford, married a daughter of Myron S. Woodward, of Bath, and now resides in Haverhill. Daniel Wilson came to town from Franconia with his son Amos, and several of his large family besides his son Amos, subsequently became residents of the town. Until his family left town, about 1877, they resided on the farm lying to the north of the meeting house near Landaff line and now owned by Jane Fackney. Amos Wilson married Sally, daughter of William and Mary (Noyes) Whitcher, who was born May 25, 1817, and who died in 1893. Of their four children William F. and George M. are deceased, while Susan M., the wife of

James M. Spinney, and Alice S., wife of John Noyes, reside in Woodsville. Amos Wilson is a man of simple tastes, of strict integrity, and devout piety. He makes his home with his daughter, Mrs. Spinney.

In 1850 Charles B. Keyser, Moses W. Howe, David Whitcher and John Flanders, sons of early settlers, became voters. Charles B. Keyser married Mary, daughter of Jeremiah B. and Susan (Tyler) Davis, and settled on the farm at the base of Moosilauke formerly occupied by William K. Bruce. He was a substantial citizen, and filled various town offices with credit and efficiency. David Whitcher, born June 17, 1828, is the youngest of the ten sons of William and Mary (Noyes) Whitcher, and the only one now living. On coming to his majority he entered into partnership with his brother Daniel. This, however, was of brief duration. He married Sally A. Noyes, daughter of Amos and Hulda Noyes, of Landaff, and purchasing a farm near North Haverhill village, devoted himself to farming. He has been one of the most successful of North Country farmers. A few years since he purchased the Nathaniel M. Swasey estate in North Haverhill, where he has since resided, and some six years since retired from active farming and now devotes himself to caring for his large investments. He is a man of decided convictions, religious and political, which he never hesitates to avow. He has never been a candidate for public office, and has devoted himself during his long life to proving that farming in New Hampshire can be made to pay. Of his two children, the eldest, a son, died at the age of eleven, and his daughter, Mrs. Hattie Blanche Sanborn, resides with her three children near her parents in North Haverhill. He is a frequent visitor to his native town, in which he takes a deep interest,



DAVID WHITCHER.



PRESCOTT PARKER.



EZRA B. MANN.



G. HENRY MANN.

though strongly of the opinion that while it is a good town in which to be born, it is also a good town from which to emigrate.

James M. Harriman was the son of James and Ruth (Pike) Harriman, and he spent much of his life in town at High Street, though living for a few years at East Haverhill, where he followed the business of blacksmith. In his later residence in town he lived on the William C. Bixby farm, served on the board of selectmen, and died in Warren, July 19, 1898, at the age of 70. Jonathan B. and Ansel Stickney purchased what is known as the A. L. Warren farm on the Meadows at the foot of Owl's Head, and were prominent and useful citizens while remaining in town. They returned to Warren about the year 1860. William Carpenter came to North Benton from Bath with his son Emery B. Carpenter, and the Carpenter family formed quite an element in the population for several years. Emery B. Carpenter remained in town several years, clearing a farm which is now abandoned and covered with forest, about midway between the Hollow on Whitcher brook and the Stowe place. For several years there was a laid out highway between these locations, but it has long since been discontinued. Of the sons of Emery B. Carpenter, Moses B. resides in Haverhill; Calvin J. in Landaff, and Chester has been for many years in the employ of the Boston & Maine railroad and lives at Fabyan. A daughter of William Carpenter, Adeline, married John P. Cox, and of their two children, Edward L., who became town clerk for two or three years, is deceased, and Roberto C., known as "Birt" Cox, resides in town on the farm formerly owned by David Marston and William Whitcher. Alonzo Carpenter married a daughter of Daniel Howe, and removed to Stoneham,

Mass., and Charles Carpenter, Jr., after a few years' residence in town, removed to Haverhill. Hiram King, a brother of Russell King, of Haverhill, lived on a farm in the Page district which subsequently passed into the possession of Ex-Governor John Page, of Haverhill. Randall Hill and Lafayette Hill were new comers on the Meadows in 1850.

The list of new names on the voting list of 1850 was quite a lengthy one: Nelson B. Carter, Amos G. Torsey, Jona Hale Marston, George Wells, Nathan C. and Nathaniel H. Stow (the Stow twins), William P. Siddons, Darius Clough, Robert Dwyer, Aaron Hand, John P. Cox, Nathaniel French, Moses P. Buswell, Bartlett Welch, and Henry Kimball. Some of these have been already mentioned. Nelson B. Carter married a daughter of Richard Brown, and went west. Amos G. Torsey, a son of Capt. Winthrop G. and Theodosia Torsey, married Elizabeth, daughter of Levi Brooks and settled on a small farm later owned for many years by Ephriam Cooley. He served for several years as superintending school committee, was engaged in teaching winters, but died of consumption in May 1857, at the age of 27. Jona. Hale Marston was the youngest son of Jonathan and Phebe Howe Marston. He married Lucy Thurston, a stepdaughter of Amos Woodward, who came to Benton from Northern New York in 1852 and settled on the homestead farm of his father. A few years later he sold his farm to James A. Cox and removed to New York and later to the far west. George Wells, born March 18, 1828, was the second son of Enos and Sally Wells. He married Caroline, a daughter of Jacob Morse, of Haverhill, and settled on a farm on the South road near that of his father. He removed to Haverhill about 1865, where he is still living.

a prosperous farmer. While in Benton he served as town clerk and selectman, and was one of the most useful citizens of the town. William P. Siddons, an Englishman, a tailor by trade, lived for several years on the South road, on the first farm to the south of that of Samuel C. Annis. His wife was a Clark, a sister of the wife of Capt. Enos Wells, who, after the death of Mr. Siddons, married John Hyde, who lived on the Meadows. There were several daughters in the Siddons family, one of whom, Jane, married George Tyler, the youngest son of Kimball Tyler, and another, Eliza, was the first wife of Charles S. Newell, of Haverhill. Darius Clough, a brother of David, came from Bath, and lived for a few years on a farm adjoining that of his brother. Robert Dwyer, a brother of Francis, lived on a farm lying to the south of the Bath road. The boys of that day who are now living have pleasant recollections of Robert Dwyer's orchard. It bore fine fruit, and Robert did not always harvest the entire crop. Aaron Hand and his family lived for two or three years, a hand-to-mouth existence, on the Abraham Norris farm. Aaron was shiftless. He preferred going fishing to work. He promised work for his neighbors in exchange for provisions, but was laggard in the fulfillment of promises. Mrs. Hand always insisted that Aaron would pay when time and health permitted, and her frequent assertion that "Aaron's word is God's truth," became a proverb. John P. Cox, who married Adaline Carpenter, was an honest, hard working man, but one who lacked the faculty of getting ahead. He lived in town, for the most of the time on the road from the "Hollow" to the Stow farm, until his death in March 1876, at the age of 64. His widow was twice remarried, and died in Woodsville, in August 1890, at the age of 70. Moses P. Buswell, son of John Buswell,

spent much of his life in town engaged in farming, but in later years has lived in Haverhill. Henry Kimball lived in the High Street district, but remained in town only a short time.

The check list for 1852 shows quite a lengthy list of new comers and new voters. Of the latter there were Truman Gray, James Gannett, George Tyler, William H. Annis and Enos C. Wells. Other names were Samuel Pike, William Sampson, John Dunlap, John Hyde, Moses Hyde, William Hyde, Sumner Hardy, Samuel A. Mann, Charles M. Howe, John Russell, Stephen C. Sherman and James C. Sherman. Truman Gray was a brother of the wife of Emery B. Carpenter. He wished to marry Sarah, the eldest daughter of Samuel Howe, but was forced by the opposition of her parents to relinquish his hopes, and removed to Massachusetts with his brother John, who was also a resident of Benton for a brief period, where he has since resided. Sarah Howe married Parker Swasey, of Hardwick, Vt., who was killed in 1864 in the battle of the Wilderness. She remained a widow until some four years since, when she again met Truman Gray whose wife had died shortly before, and they were married after a separation of nearly forty years, and now reside in Cambridge, Mass. William H. Annis, the son of Joseph and Betsey (Currier) Annis, went to Lynn, Mass., and later to Groton, Vt., where he died in 1897, at the age of 65. George Tyler was the youngest son of Kimball and Sally (Streeter) Tyler. After the death of his father he built a new house on the old homestead, and resided there most of the time till about 1864, when, after the sudden death of his two children from malignant diptheria, he disposed of his property and went to Massachusetts. Enos C. Wells, the youngest son of Capt.

Enos Wells, purchased the Siddons place, and married Annette, the daughter of Jacob Morse, of Haverhill. They remained in town, however, but a few years, when they removed to Lynn, Mass. John Hyde with his sons, Moses and William, settled on the Meadows, but the sons remained but a short time. John Hyde was at one time a large land owner. He married for his second wife the widow of William P. Siddons. He became a convert to the Second Adventist faith, and became insane the year following the war, and after his release from the New Hampshire Asylum removed from town. The farm known as the Hyde farm is now owned by Peter Bolicau. Charles M. Howe settled on the hill near Haverhill line, and had quite a large family of daughters and one son, Charles H. Howe, who enlisted in the Eleventh regiment of New Hampshire Volunteers, and died of disease while in the service. Charles M. Howe was not a man of prepossessing appearance, but his loyalty and devotion to the Republican party was beyond question. During his twenty years residence in town his party was small in numbers, and in the factional Democratic contests over the selection of town officers, and representative to the General Court, the Republicans in close contests lined up with the Democratic factions, as friendship and other considerations dictated, all except "Uncle Charley." Deaf to the most potent appeals he would persist in the closest of contests, in voting for Charles M. Howe, on the ground that he was the only Republican whom he could trust. Stephen C. Sherman came to Benton from Lisbon with his son James C. Sherman, and purchased the farm on the East road to the west of that now occupied by Solomon Hutchins. Later, after his son James C. moved to Manchester, he sold this and purchased the Kimball Tyler homestead where George

Tyler had lived. Mr. Sherman had seen service in the war of 1812, was fond of political discussion, in fact, any kind of discussion. He was never known to assent to the opinions of others, his standard remark being, "Well, I dunno, that is a question." He was a regular attendant at religious services, and greatly prized his position as teacher in Sunday school of a bible class of middle aged women. The members of his class used to say, "Mr. Sherman is a deep bible scholar", but it never appeared that he did anything except to talk platitudes and fire biblical conundrums at the simple minded, but good, women.

The next year, 1853, found William C. Bixby, Caleb Morse, George Brown, Amos Woodward, John W. Mulliken, Nathaniel Mulliken and Nelson F. Noyes in town, and Timothy E. Howe, son of Daniel Howe, became a voter. He soon afterward removed to Lisbon where he engaged in the boot and shoe business and became a successful business man. Caleb Morse was a brother of William F. Morse, and was engaged with him as a blacksmith until both left town a little later. George Brown established himself for a few years on the South road, and was the pioneer in distilling spruce oil, an industry that later became quite an important one. He remained in town, however, but a few years. Amos Woodward came from the northern part of New York, built himself a log house and cleared a farm to the north of the Stow farm and engaged quite extensively in the burning of charcoal. After a few years residence in town he returned to New York, and none of his large family of children remained in town. Two of his sons, Hiram and George, enlisted in New Hampshire regiments and rendered valuable services during the war of the Rebellion. Nelson F. Noyes, the eldest son of Moses Noyes, of Haverhill, who

married Polly, the eldest daughter of Daniel Howe, married Hannah Flanders, but shortly afterwards removed to Haverhill. Walter Mulliken had come from Haverhill some two or three years earlier, and he was followed this year by his father, John W. Mulliken, and his brothers, Nathaniel and George W. Walter remained in town but a few years, but his father remained until his death, about 1863, and Nathaniel and George for several years later. The Mullikens established themselves to the north of the William K. Bruce or Charles B. Keyser farm next to Landaff line, but the buildings are now in ruins and the farm is for the most part now grown up to forest. George W. Mulliken is now a resident of Haverhill. William C. Bixby was a member of a Warren family, and one of five brothers who entered the christian ministry. One of his brothers, Moses H., became a leading clergyman in the Baptist denomination, and another was a successful Congregational pastor in Massachusetts, but William C. adhered to the Methodist faith of his parents. He never united with an annual conference, but was ordained both deacon and elder, and supplied Methodist pulpits for several years before settling down on his High Street farm, the one now owned by De Elden Tibbets. He was a man of devout piety, and of more than ordinary intellectual ability, but he suffered from physical peculiarities which perhaps prevented him from entering the conference as a traveling minister.

Chester Spooner became a voter in town in 1854, and was a resident for several years at intervals until his death some time about 1880, at the age of upwards of 90 years. Two of his sons subsequently became residents of the town, William for a few years, and Alonzo, who still resides in the town in the Hollow. Several of the sons of Alonzo Spooner

have also at various times lived in town, Daniel, Horace and Oscar. William Merrill and Abraham Taylor were the owners of the sawmill on the Oliverian, just south of the Meadows, and Jacob M. White, who spent two or three years in town before removing to Landaff, lived on the farm which had been previously occupied by David M. Howe. "March" White, as he was familiarly known, had a large family of children, four sons: Emery B., now living in Stoneham, Mass.; Edwin, who removed to Washington Territory; John, who resides in Lawrence, Mass., and Charles, who lives in Stoneham, Mass. His four daughters, Laura, Ann, Mary and Susan, all reside in Mass. Mr. White was a man of good education, and maintained an active interest in the political and other questions of the day. In 1855 he was one of the active spirits in the Native American or Know Nothing movement. Jonas Hurlbut built himself a log house and cleared a few acres of land on Coburn hill to the west of the David Clough farm, but was employed for the most of the time in the sawmills of the town. He remained but a few years. Other new voters this year were C. T. Cogswell, Josiah Downey, Walter Pike, Clifton S. Mardin, Moody Styles and Nathan Blodgett, the latter living near the Haverhill line on the road leading north-east from the Meadows.

In 1855 there was quite an addition to the list of ratable polls, many of these being employes connected with the charcoal kilns which were built near East Haverhill after the opening of the Boston, Concord & Montreal railroad. Most of these were not voters, but among those entitled to vote were: William Sampson, L. W. Parker, Chase S. Cawley, Benjamin Cummings, William Hartwell, Joseph Place and Franklin Butler. Calvin Corliss settled this year in the

west part of the town. Horace W. Gordon came from Landaff, married Lucinda C., daughter of Amos Whitcher, and lived in town for some ten years, subsequently removing to Stoneham, Mass., where he lived until his death. Elisha Hibbard came from Haverhill, and established himself as a blacksmith in the Hollow, where he lived for several years. His wife, by his first marriage, was a daughter of John and Olive Brown. Janes Glazier came from Haverhill, and established the business of wheel-wright in the Hollow. His wife was Almira Elliott. Their eldest daughter, Alma, is the wife of Charles Clark, of Haverhill; another daughter, Alice, is the wife of Thomas E. Taylor, of Woodsville; Winnie married Fred Aldrich, of Haverhill, and a son, the Rev. Burt J. Glazier, is a clergyman of the Adventist faith. Amos C. Mann became a voter in town for the first time this year.

The new names on the voting list in 1856 are those of George Corliss, Chester Corliss, Joshua Howard, Daniel Spaulding, William R. Park, Albert Buswell, Alonzo Spooner, Arthur Knapp, William Caswell, Daniel W. Brown, Thomas H. Hunkings, Henry Fuller, Prescott Parker and Prescott Parker, Jr. Daniel W. Brown died in 1859, at the age of 25, and Thomas H. Hunkings remained in town but a few years. All the others named, except the Parkers, may be properly classed as transients. Prescott Parker and Prescott Parker, Jr., came from Lyman, and purchased the farm on which "March" White was then living and remained there until they purchased the farm on which Lebina H. Parker now lives in the corner of the town adjoining Haverhill and Landaff. Prescott Parker, Jr., was an industrious, thrifty man and became one of the most useful citizens of the town. He served for several years on

the board of selectmen and represented the town in the legislature in the years 1877-78. He died June 13, 1898, in his 77th year. His widow survives him, residing with her son, Lebina H. Parker. One son, Frank C., lives in Lisbon, and a daughter, Dora, lives with her mother and brother.

The new voters in 1857 were Roswell L. Cady, William Swain, Ezra C. Winchester, Charles M. Badger, Elisha C. Durant, William Harden, James B. Clark and Morin Knight. William Harden came from East Haverhill, and lived for a few years in the Hollow at North Benton, where he carried on blacksmithing. A few years later he removed to Canada but subsequently returned to Benton where he lived till his death. A stepdaughter married William H. Burnham. He had three daughters. One married Fred P. Burnham, of Bath; another Charles Hutchins, of Woodsville, and another, Solomon J. Hutchins, who lives on the William T. Torsey farm in Benton. Moren Knight lived for several years with his brother-in-law, Daniel Whitcher, but later married and removed to Landaff, where he still resides. Otis Brooks came to town in 1858, and remaining for several years, being engaged in the sawmills of the town, but later removed first to Easton, then to Franconia. Wesley B. Davis, the eldest son of Jeremiah B. and Susan (Tyler) Davis returned to Benton after an absence of several years in Massachusetts, and soon after was ordained a minister in the Advent denomination. His ministerial career was, however, brief, and in the early sixties he went west, and little, if anything authentic, was heard of him afterwards. Benjamin H. Tyrell also became a resident of the town in the latter part of 1857 or early in 1858, and lived for several years on the hill near Charles M. Howe. Later he lived in the High Street section. He was employed in lum-

bering, and had a large family of children, none of whom now live in town. Ephraim Cooley came from Sugar Hill. His wife was Adaline, a daughter of Daniel Wilson. He purchased a small farm to the east of the meeting house, where he lived until his death in 1897, at the age of 83. A son, Holman D., died in 1892, at the age of 49, and his eldest daughter, Rebecca, is the wife of Byron Bailey, of Woodsville. His youngest daughter, Myra, married Denison B. Davis, and died in 1881, at the age of 26.

Joseph Nudd, Stephen Perkins, Charles Jacobs and John Burbank settled in the south part of the town in 1859, and Lorenzo T. Davis, Chester C. Clough and Leonard Moody became voters in the north part. Russell Kimball, with his son-in-law, Curtis Fletcher, came from Haverhill, and lived a few years on the John C. Brown farm on Tunnel stream.

There were four new comers in 1860. Darius Clough came from Bath, and settled near his brother, David Clough, but after a little returned to Bath. Alden E. Hurlburt came from Haverhill, and was for several years a resident of the town. Henry A. Glazier also came from Haverhill, married Elizabeth, a daughter of Benjamin H. Tyrell, and purchased the Samuel C. Annis farm near the meeting house. Daniel Spooner, Horace L. Carr, Stephen Marston, George Wilson, George W. Mulliken and Rufus W. Howe, sons of residents became voters for the first time this year.

The population of the town in 1860 was 494, the largest reached by any census taken. The vote cast for Governor and representative to the General Court was 103, which had never been exceeded except in 1858, when the vote was 109, and in 1859, when the vote was 111. But these were two of the four famous Bunga Road years when there was the bitterness of contests between George W. Mann and Daniel

Whitcher for the legislative honors. In 1857 the vote was 103 ; in 1861 it was 103, but thenceforward it diminished. It is perhaps safe to say that the town reached the height of its prosperity in 1860. A glance at the different districts or sections of the town with the names of the residents of each section will be of interest.

In school district No. 1, or the High Street neighborhood, so called, there were, naming the families in order from Warren line, those of James M. Harriman, William C. Bixby, Bartlett Welch, Joseph Nudd, Silas M. Welch, Chester Spooner, John Lathrop, and Josiah F. Jeffers. The David Dickey farm was not then occupied, and the Eljah Gray farm was abandoned. On the Meadows, in school district No. 2, following the road from Warren line to Haverhill line, there were : Jonathan and Ansel Stickney, Melinda Place, Nancy Pike and her son, Walter F. Pike, John Hyde, E. Hill and his sons, Randall and Lafayette, John and Moses P. Buswell and Nathan Blodgett. In "the Page Neighborhood", or in school district No. 3, there were, following the road from Haverhill line, Ephraim Cross, James J. and James Page, John Burbank, Cornelius and Horace L. Carr, Chester Corliss and Daniel D. Page. Hiram King, who had lived for some years on the Gov. John Page farm, had left a year or two before, and the farm was unoccupied, but Jeremy Titus had erected a sawmill to the north of Sugar Loaf, which he was then operating, though his house was just over the line in Haverhill.

In North Benton in school district No. 5 the residents were : from Haverhill town line on the Swiftwater road to the school house, Prescott Parker, Prescott Parker, Jr., George W. Mann, Mrs. Louisa Eastman and Amos Wilson ; from the school house on the Haverhill road to the Haverhill

town line, Charles C. Tyler, Moses W. Howe, and Francis Dwyer; from the school house on the road up Howe hill, so called, Charles Gifford, Daniel Howe, Daniel M. Howe, Alden E. Hurlbutt, Samuel Howe, Peter Howe 2nd, Charles M. Howe and James B. Clark; from the school house to and including "the Hollow", the eastern boundary of the district, Daniel Whitcher, Peter Howe, James Norris, Ira Whitcher, Chase Whitcher, Elisha Hibbard, John E. Keyser, William Eastman, Amos Whitcher, William Harden and Samuel C. Annis; and on the road up the brook, John P. Cox. In district No. 4 Henry A. Glazier on the Annis farm west of the meeting house; Ephraim Cooley on the east, and Daniel and George Wilson on the north; on the South road, so called, Enos C. Wells, David M. Norris, Horace W. Gordon, Caleb Wells, George Wells, Enos Wells, the Stow farm unoccupied, James A. Cox, Orrin, Samuel E. and Stephen B. Marston; on the road leading easterly from James A. Cox's, James H. and Thomas F. Cox, Bartlett Marston, William T. Torsey, and Gilbert P. Wright. In district No. 6, Winthrop G. Torsey, Jeremiah B. Davis, George Tyler and James C. Sherman, (on a road southerly) David Clough, William Davis, Jonathan Davis, Joseph Hutchins, Noah C. Hutchins, Jonas G. Brown, David Bowman, William Keyser, James H. Keyser, Russell Kimball, Curtis Fletcher, Jonathan Hunkings, Charles B. Keyser, John W. Mulliken and Nathaniel Mulliken; from No. 6 school house southerly, Israel Flanders, Lafayette W. Flanders, Asa Merrill and John Flanders.

In the decade from 1860 to 1870 most of the new comers in town were but transient residents, and the most of the young men on reaching their majority, or a little later, left for other localities; as did also many of the older residents

who had been active in the affairs of the town. Benjamin F. and Ashael L. Warren purchased the Stickney farm on the Meadows in 1860 and for a number of years were prominent in town matters. A. L. Warren was a most successful farmer. He removed to Haverhill about 1883, where he still resides on a farm near Pike. The Rev. George W. Richardson came to North Benton in 1860 and remained for two years, pastor of the Free Will Baptist society, occupying the pulpit of the Union Meeting house on alternate Sundays with the Methodist preacher. Elder Richardson's disquisitions on Old Testament history were something great. He came from Vershire, Vt., and went from Benton to East Tilton. James H. Keyser, son of William Keyser, who had left home some years before, returned about the year 1860, and took up his residence with his father. He built a sawmill on Tunnel stream and engaged in the lumber business until the lumber lands in that section of the town were sold to the Fall Mountain Paper Co. Since then Mr. Keyser has given his entire time to farming, and has served the town in various capacities as tax collector, town clerk and selectman. William Spooner, Daniel Hoyt, James Buswell, George Corliss, Charles Howe, son of Charles M., John Harris, Laban T. Davis, son of Jeremiah B., Frank Oakes, and John E. Oakes were new voters in 1861, and in 1862 the following new names appeared on the check list: Henry Witcher, a son of Winthrop C. and Mercy (Noyes) Witcher, Franklin Ferguson, Prescott Blake, Warren Blake, Henry Hutchins, son of Lucius, Arthur Wilson, son of Daniel, Stephen Marston, son of Orrin, Moody Howland, John Copp and Benjamin Hatch. Prescott Blake purchased a farm in the Page district which he occupied for some years, and Benjamin Hatch came from



JAMES H. KEYSER.

East Haverhill and leased the Daniel Whitcher farm on the removal of Mr. Whitcher to Whitcherville in Landaff.

New names on the list in 1863 were those of Marcellus M. Davis, son of John C., Nathan Blodgett, Jr., Wesley Marston, son of Bartlett, Merrill Clough, son of David, Philemon P. Oakes, Lyman Bemis, George E. Brown, son of Jonas G., George W. Mulliken, son of John W., Amos C. Mann, Kirk Bowles, William Bliss and Sherburn Gleason. William Bliss came from North Haverhill, and leased the blacksmith shop in "the Hollow." Sherburn Gleason entered the employ of Chase Whitcher, while Amos C. Mann purchased the farm on Tunnel stream which had been occupied for a few years by Russell Kimball.

In 1864 the new names appearing on the list were those of John E. French, Taylor P. Blake, son of Prescott, Jeremiah A. Clark, William H. Weld, R. Clement Clough, Charles H. Whitcher, son of Amos, George E. Eastman, son of Sylvester and Louisa, and Francis A. Brooks. Charles H. Whitcher married Minerva, daughter of David and Hannah Bowman, purchased the blacksmith shop, and the house adjoining that of his father, but about 1872 removed to Stoneham, Mass., where he resided until his death. He was elected town clerk on reaching his majority, and served for several years. George E. Eastman remained a resident but a short time. He married Rebecca Bronson and removed to Bath, and later to North Haverhill, where he still resides. Holman D. Cooley, son of Ephraim, and Joshua Page, son of Daniel D., were voters for the first time in 1865, and other new names on the list were those of Charles W. Winchester, John E. Oakes, who married Mary, a daughter of Daniel Wilson, Cornelius Dwyer, Edward P. Devlin and George W. Bemis. The latter, with

his brothers, Lyman and Moses P., purchased the Jonathan Hunkings property and engaged in the lumber business. The two brothers remained with him but a short time, and he carried on the business alone until about 1860, when he disposed of it to J. G. Ramsdell. Martha, a sister of George W. Bemis, married Philemon P. Oakes. None of the Bemis family are now in town. Moses P. resides in Haverhill. Cornelius Dwyer, a brother of Francis, came from Benton and purchased the Daniel Witcher farm. Cornelius had spent nearly all his life at sea, and was hardly what would be called a scientific farmer. Some of his neighbors took advantage of his inexperience and sold him farm stock at what were most emphatically war prices. Cornelius also engaged in the liquor traffic, but possessing himself an inordinate love of "the craythur" he did not gather riches to himself by this means. He returned to Boston after some three years, having perhaps gained a little in his knowledge of agriculture, considerably more in experience in trading in oxen and other live stock, but poorer by far in earthly possessions. His methods of farming furnished amusement for the boys.

James M. Copp, a local preacher of the Methodist Episcopal church, whose family had resided for many years in Haverhill, married Marietta, daughter of Josiah F. and Asenath (Wright) Jeffers, and came to reside with Mr. Jeffers, preaching on Sundays in surrounding towns. On the death of the latter, in September 1866, he combined the lumber business with his ministerial labors, the result of which was that the small property which had been accumulated by his father-in-law was nearly all lost to his family. Mr. Copp was not a Whitefield as a preacher, and was still less a success as a business man. Willard W. Coburn, who

had lived as a boy in the family of Jonas G. Brown, and whose daughter, Clara, he married became a voter this year, 1866, and continued to reside in Benton on the J. G. Brown farm, engaging also in the lumber business for some years after Mr. Brown had removed to Haverhill. He was active in town affairs, served as selectman, and filled various other town offices. His brother, Ransom Coburn, who married Cyrenia, daughter of Jonas G. Brown, was later associated with him in business. Both removed from town about 1874. Nathan Blodget and his son, Nathan, Jr., left town in 1866, and their farm was purchased by W. T. Bowen.

New names appearing on the voting list in 1867 were those of Winthrop C. Whitcher, son of Amos, Edward F. Mann, son of George W., William F. Whitcher, son of Ira, and Harrison Day. None of these became permanent residents, though Edward F. Mann retained a voting residence there until his marriage in 1881. Winthrop C. Whitcher graduated at the New Hampton Institute, was for several years a licensed minister of the Free Will Baptist denomination. He went to Stoneham, Mass., about 1873, where he still resides, engaged in the grocery business, and is an active and devoted layman of the Methodist Episcopal church. Other new names on the voting list were: John G. Howe, Nathaniel Clark, Charles House, Richard Drown and John Crimmings. The latter purchased the Nancy Pike farm on the Meadows, which is now owned and occupied by his son, James Crimmings. New voters in 1868 were: John A. True, Edward M. True, John Page, son of Daniel D., Moses Clough, Tristram Hartwell, Castanus Marston, son of Orrin, Orrin Eastman, Thomas Stacy, Fredrick S. Howe, son of Samuel, Isaac H. Tyler, Hiram Bowen, Henry M. Whiteman and Joseph Pond. The True brothers

resided in the Page district, and participated actively in town affairs. Tristram Hartwell lived on the George Wells place, and Orrin Eastman and family lived with his relative William Eastman in "the Hollow." John L. Stevens married the widow of Bartlett Welch, and resided on the Welch farm at High Street.

The new voters in 1869 were: Marcellus Tyrell, son of Benjamin H., James Crimmings, son of John, Geo. Henry Mann, son of George W., Spafford W. Cowan, Charles Collins, Charles Clark, son of Jeremiah A., David Wright, son of Gilbert P., Parker Bancroft, James E. Whitcher, son of Amos, Edward L. Cox, son of John P., Ransom Coburn and S. H. Chamberlin. James Crimmings is the only one of these now residing in town. James E. Whitcher removed to Stoneham, Mass., engaging in the grocery business until his death in 1881. He was prominent in town affairs there, twice representing the town in the Massachusetts legislature, and serving on the board of selectmen. Geo. Henry Mann entered the employ of the B. & M. railroad, and resides in Woodsville. E. L. Cox lived in town until his death, and was for two or three years town clerk. Charles Collins came from Haverhill, and purchased the Charles Gifford farm. He was a veteran of the Civil war. Both he and his wife, a daughter of Eli Pike, of Haverhill, are now deceased. In 1870 the only new voters were: Austin Willey, George W. Annis, son of Samuel C., Charles A. Veazey, Clifton Pike and Hiram Scales. Charles A. Veazey married Ruth J., daughter of Sylvester and Louisa (Whitcher) Eastman, and purchased the Amos Wilson farm near the No. 5 school house, where he lived until he removed to "the Hollow", where he still resides, engaged in a "general store" business, while Mrs. Veazsy is post-

mistress. His son, William D. Veazey, graduated at New Hampton Institute, studied law in the office of Charles F. Stone, of Laconia, and is in the active practice of his profession in that city, a member of the firm of Jewell, Owen & Veazey. He has thrice been elected solicitor for Belknap county, and holds that office at the present time. His daughter, Jennie, married W. A. Brown, and resides in Bellows Falls, Vt. The abandonment of farms had begun as this period closed, and the census of 1870 showed a decrease in population. The town had lost some of its best families by death or removal. Among those might be mentioned the Stowes, the Browns, the Wellses, the Davises, with a single exception, and others were soon to follow. Benton farms were ceasing to have attractions for the young men as they came to the estate of manhood, and the lumber industry was becoming less and less profitable as railroads were extended into the forests of Coos and Carroll counties. Not all, by any means, who left town bettered themselves, but emigration had set in, and the places of those who left were hardly made good, either in numbers or in quality by new comers.

CHAPTER V.

THE BENTON OF RECENT YEARS.

In the last thirty years Benton has undergone the changes incident to the mountain towns of the state which are without railroad facilities, and which have not built up a summer resort business. The sale of the forest lands to the Winnepesauke and Fall Mountain Paper companies put an end to the manufacture of lumber and the six saw mills which had done a flourishing business went into decay, were torn down, and the machinery was sold. The paper companies, indeed, began operations in the forests, but they imported their labor, adding nothing to the permanent prosperity of the town. On the contrary, the wholesale destruction of the forests materially decreased the town's material wealth and resources. The exodus of the representatives of the older families continued, and most of those who came in to take their places remained but a short time, or, remaining permanently, were lacking in the enterprise, thrift and energy of those who had gone. In the decade, 1870-1880, Ira, Chase and Amos Whiteher, Orrin, Bartlett, Samuel E. and Stephen Marston, Gilbert P. Wright, Jonathan Davis and James J. Page were among those who removed from town, while death was busy in the ranks of the residents who had contributed to the prosperity of the town. Among these were Charles C. Tyler, John P. Cox, Peter Howe, Winthrop G. Torsey, Samuel A. Mann, Amos C. Mann, and Ara Smith.

Charles C. Tyler was one of the characters of the town. He married, before reaching his majority, Diana Bishop, and they were parents of eleven children, all of whom, save one,



WILLIAM D. VEAZEY.

grew to the estate of manhood and womanhood. Charles was shoemaker, farmer, mail carrier, dealer in calves and sheep, manufacturer of wild strawberry and raspberry preserves, tax collector, and sort of general utility man. He was not noted for being a hard-working man, but the fact that he *enjoyed* poor health may have accounted for his distaste for manual labor. It was a mystery to many how he managed to feed, clothe, and provide well for his family of eleven children, but he did it. He was always cheerful and hopeful, never discouraged, and never overburdened with debt since never able to obtain large credit. It was the verdict of his townsmen that he was possessed of "calculation". More than one industrious, hard-working citizen has exclaimed: "If I only had Charles Tyler's calculation, I would be a rich man."

He never accumulated property, though he sometimes boasted that "Chase Whitcher and I pay a larger tax than any other two men in town." He died suddenly in 1878 at the age of 51. His widow still lives in town, as do five of his sons, Fred M., Byron M., Alfred E., Leslie and Carroll. One son, Charles Wilder, lives in the West. The eldest of the family, Lucetta S., married Amos M. Pike and resides in Haverhill, another daughter, Hannah, resides in Stoneham, Mass., and the youngest daughter, May, is the wife of Albert A. Foss.

Pardon W. Allen, who married Dorcas, a daughter of Samuel and Merab (Royce) Howe, came to town in 1871, and remained several years. He lived on the Ira Whitcher farm and filled various town offices, serving for several years as town clerk. He was a justice of peace, and magnified his office. There is on record in the Grafton registry of deeds an agreement signed by Justice Allen in his official

capacity, according to which a man and his wife were divorced, the wife promising never to trouble the husband, the cash consideration being specified. It is probably the only divorce on record in New Hampshire on the authority of a justice of the peace. He removed to Haverhill about 1880, where he has since resided. Charles Cutting, William Tibbetts, C. E. True, E. L. True, Charles Wilder Tyler, Stephen Marden, Charles L. Spooner, and Chester Drown were voters in Benton in 1871. William Tibbetts remained in town till his death, a few years later. Chester Drown lived for a few years on the Amos C. Mann farm on Tunnel Stream. In 1872, Gilbert P. Wright, Jr., and Newell C. Wright, sons of Gilbert P., George H. Clark, son of Jeremiah A., William W. Eastman, son of Sylvester, Solomon J. Hutchins, son of Noah C., Dennison D. Davis, son of Jeremiah B., Stephen Plant and Frank Whiteman were new voters. The Wright brothers, a little later, removed to Haverhill, where Newell C. has been somewhat prominent in local politics. He was also a member of the 1st. Regt. N. H. Volunteers in the Spanish-American war. George H. Clark married Susan, daughter of Samuel and Emily Whitcher, and a few years later purchased the Peter Howe farm, where he has since resided, a prosperous farmer, and one of the town's most substantial citizens. He has served as selectman, and has been one of the active promoters of the local Methodist church. His wife died, April 24, 1900, at the age of 41. William W. Eastman is the youngest son of Sylvester and Louisa (Whitcher) Eastman. He was born in northern New York, October, 1850, but came to Benton with his parents when a child, where he has since lived. He has been active in all the affairs of the town, has served as selectman, road agent, tax collector, town clerk,



WILLIAM W. EASTMAN.

and was a member of the Constitutional Convention of 1888. He is actively engaged in farming, owning the Ira Whitcher and Chase Whitcher farms, residing on the latter. He has also engaged in lumbering, and is justly recognized as one of the most influential citizens of the town. He married, first, Georgia Aldrich, of Haverhill, who died Apr. 19, 1892; second, Mrs. Edna Morse Eastman, widow of Joseph Eastman, of Easton.

Solomon J. Hutchins married the daughter of William Harden, and resides on the William T. Torsey farm on the East road. Frank Tyrrell, son of Benjamin H., John S. Annis, son of Samuel C., and Fred M. Tyler, son of Charles C., became voters in 1873. John S. Annis married Ida Tyler and lived in town until his death in 1903. Fred M. Clark, married a daughter of James H. Keyser, and has always lived in town, since the death of his wife on the Jonas G. Brown farm. He had a family of ten children, six of whom are living. Only one, the youngest, resides at home. Mr. Tyler has inherited many of the characteristics of his father.

New voters in 1874 were: Olin A. R. True, De Elden Tibbets, son of William, Franklin Hill, John McLean, Orman L. Mann, son of George W., and Roberto C. Cox, son of John P. De Elden Tibbets is a farmer, owning the William C. Bixby farm at High street, and has spent several years in the employ of the Boston & Maine railroad. Orman L. Mann is the only one of the eight sons of George W. Mann who has remained in town. He is a successful and prosperous farmer, and is one of the leading citizens in the town. He lives on the Louisa Eastman farm and owns the Moses W. Howe farm and also in connection with his son-in-law, Charles C. Tyler, the old homestead farm of

his father, George W. Mann. Roberto C. Cox, or Birt Cox, as he has chosen to call himself since reaching his majority, married a daughter of Alonzo Spooner and lives on the Daniel Witcher farm, where he has also a small saw mill, a cider mill and a blacksmith shop. George E. White came to town in 1874, purchased the Josiah F. Jeffers and the Joseph Nudd farms, but remained only a few years when he removed to Haverhill.

Wilbur F. True was a new voter in 1875, but soon after become station agent at East Haverhill where he still resides. Nathan D. Hutchins, son of Lucius, was also a voter for the first time this year, but did not remain long in town. Albion G. Witcher, son of Amos, William B. Page, son of Daniel D., Lemman S. Keyser, son of John O., and Cleveland Tyrrell, son of Benjamin H., became voters in 1876, but soon left town. Alfred Morrill purchased a farm in the Page district, and later purchased the James A. and James H. Cox farms at North Benton where he still resides.

George Welch, son of Silas M., became a voter 1877 and has since resided in town. Other new voters were Melvin J. Mann, son of George W., A. Elmore Tyler, son of Charles C., and Lebina H. Parker, son of Prescott. A. E. Tyler is still living in town and has until recently been with his son, Charles C., on the George W. Mann farm. Lebina H. Parker remained with his father on the homestead farm, and is one of the most influential citizens of the town. He has not only followed the pursuit of farming but has engaged in other enterprises, owning the creamery at Woodsville as well as Benton, and is also proprietor of the Parker House, a new and commodious summer hotel at the base of Moosilauke, erected on the site of the Jonathan Hunkings homestead. He has been active in all town affairs has served



LEBINA H. PARKER.

for many years as chairman of the board of selectmen, represented the town in the legislature of 1887, and was delegate to the Constitutional convention of 1903. Mr. Parker is unmarried and resides with his mother and sisters on the homestead farm. Gilbert P. Wright moved to Haverhill this year, and Eben T. Hardy moved to the Wright farm, remaining for several years.

Frank B. Parker, son of Prescott, became a voter in 1879 but removed soon afterward to Bath and later to Lisbon where he still resides. Jesse Tyler, son of one of the early settlers, came to the High street section of the town in this year but a little later removed to Warren.

In 1880 Fred P. Burnham, a son of Daniel, and who married Lucy, daughter of William Harden, purchased the small farm opposite the Peter Howe place, but after a few years removed to Bath. John C. Speed, a Civil War veteran, came to town, remaining until his death in 1901 at the age of 64. Halsey R. Howe, son of Samuel, was a voter for the first time this year. He remained on the homestead farm with his parents becoming the owner after the death of his father in 1899. He was twice married. A daughter by his first wife married Wade Lane, of Woodsville. He died in 1904, leaving a widow and one son. David F. Richardson came from North Lisbon, and purchased the Hunkings mill and farm, also the Amos C. Mann farm, and for several years carried on an extensive lumber business. After he sold his lumber lands to the Fall Mountain Paper Co. he removed to the Hollow, keeping a general store until 1891, when he sold out to Charles A. Veazey, and removed to North Haverhill, where he died a year or two later. He served as selectman, town clerk, and represented the town in the legislature of 1891. He

married Lillian Wilmot, a granddaughter of Samuel Howe. In 1881 Edgar S. Welch, son of Silas M., and Byron M. Tyler, son of Charles, became voters. The former married a daughter of Benjamin H. Tyrrell, lived a few years at High Street, where he was engaged in the lumber business, and then removed to Barton, Vt., where he is engaged as contractor and builder. Byron M. Tyler spent a few years in Stoneham, Mass., but returned to Benton, where he owns the Jeremiah B. Davis farm. He is also proprietor of the Woodsville and Benton stage, and carries the daily mail. He has been twice married. Paul M. Howe, eldest son of Daniel M and Susan (Clough) Howe, became a voter in 1882, and took quite an active part in town affairs during the next few years until he entered the employ of the Pike Manufacturing Co., at Pike, where he has since lived. He married Anna J., a daughter of Samuel C. Annis. Gardner F. Hurlburt, son of Alden E., was another new voter. He remained in town several years, but now resides in Haverhill.

John Sheldon came to the High Street neighborhood in 1883, and George Damon purchased the Amos C. Mann farm on Tunnell Stream. Charles Bion Keyser, son of James H., was a new voter, as was also Frank Foss. None of these now reside in town. New names on the voting list in 1885 were: Fred M. Richardson, Isaac Lindsay, and W. E. Bell, and these were followed the next year by Henry E. Weeks, A. L. Phelps, who moved to the Daniel D. Page farm, Samuel E. Hight and E. P. Weld. In 1887 Moses B., son of George W., and Sarah (Bisbee) Mann, became a voter, as did also Leslie G., son of Charles C. and Diana (Bishop) Tyler. Williard Bean took up his residence this year on the Jeremiah B. Davis

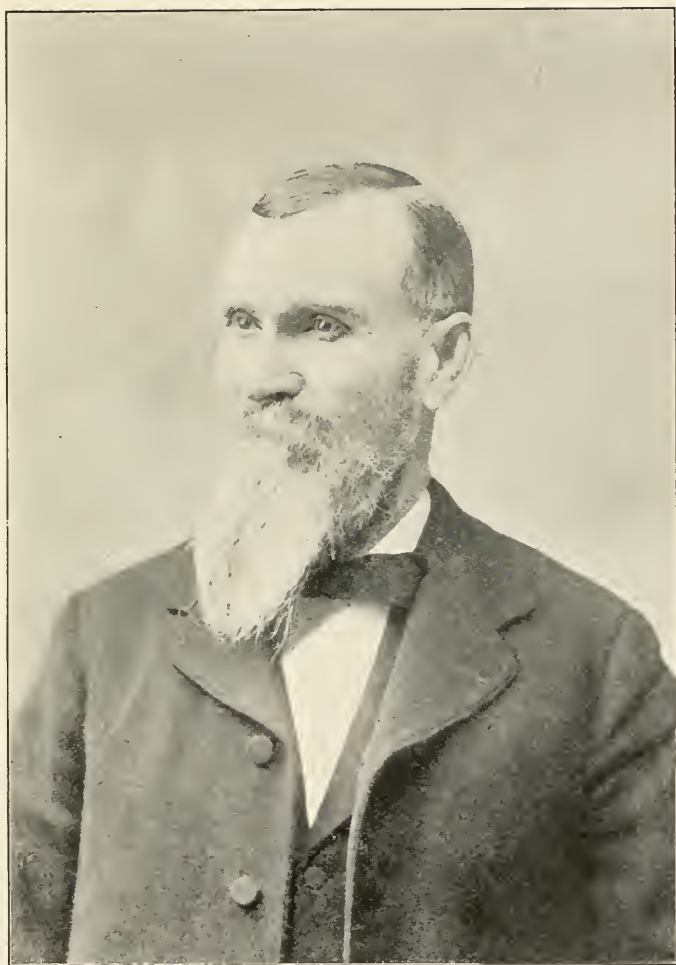
farm. In 1888, Sam, son of Daniel M. and Susan (Clough) Howe became a voter, as did Norman J., son of James and Olive A. (Hunkings) Page, and Harry, youngest son of Daniel D. Page. W. Sims Nutter married Minnie, daughter of George W. and Sarah (Bisbee) Mann, and came to reside with his father-in-law. He is a son of the late Joshua Nutter, of Bath. After the death of Mr. Mann, in 1901, he removed to Woodsville. George E. Wilson came to Benton in 1889, but soon afterwards removed to Bath. The new voters in 1890 were ; Lewis French, who purchased the Bartlett Welch farm, and John Gilman, who also settled in the High Street district, but both left town a little later, French selling his farm to De Elden Tibbetts. John Fackney and W. F. Fackney bought the Daniel Wilson farm in 1891, and subsequently purchased the S. C. Annis farm, where they now reside. Carroll B. Tyler, youngest son of Charles C. and Diana (Bishop) Tyler, became a voter in 1892. In 1893 William Philbrick came to the Page district. William D. Veazey, son of Charles A., became a voter, but later went to Laconia, studied law, and is engaged in the practice of his profession in that city. Frank Moulton, who lived in the John E. Keyser house in the Hollow, was postmaster until he left town some four years later. Harry H. Elliott purchased the George Tyler farm and has since resided in town.

The new voters in 1894 were : Harry Little, who purchased the Silas M. Welch farm at High Street ; Lee A. Collins, son of Charles ; William Kendall ; George Ingerson ; and John Wallace. The latter came to live with Charles B. Keyser, and has since purchased the Keyser farm. William Kendall came from Easton, where he had been been engaged for several years in the lumber business

in partnership with his brother-in-law, Daniel J. Whiteher. He purchased the small farm opposite the Peter Howe place, and made improvements by repairing the buildings and erecting new ones, making his residence one of the most attractive in town. He has served the town in the various town offices, and represented it in the legislature of 1897, enjoying the distinction of being the only Republican representative ever elected in Benton. Indeed, except in his case, the town has had an unbroken succession of Democratic representatives, returning in 1904 to its ancient faith in the election of Lebina H. Parker to the General Court.

In 1895 Albert A. Foss, who married May, the youngest daughter of Charles C. and Diana (Bishop) Tyler, and Arthur A. Delaney, who married the youngest daughter of John and Eliza (Brown) Flanders, became voters. George W. Bailey purchased the C. A. Veazey farm in 1896 and has since resided in town. George Belyea came from Warren to the farm adjoining the old sawmill site north of Warren Summit station. James Ramsey took up his residence on the Winthrop G. Torsey farm. Stephen H. Dexter married a daughter of Frederick M. Tyler, and became a voter in 1897, and Joseph Peltier moved to the Hollow, where he has since resided. E. L. Morse, who married a daughter of Daniel and Susan (Clough) Howe was another of the new citizens.

Among those who have become voters by reason of attaining their majority, or who have moved into town to remain for more than a year or two, since 1897, are : Chas. P. Collins, son of Charles ; Alonzo Annis, son of John ; George Brill ; Willard M. Marden ; Napoleon Burke, Jr. ; John E. Cox, son of Birt ; Durward W. Hutchins, son of Solomon J. ; Ernest T. Page, son of James ; Rodney Rollins ; and



WILLIAM KENDALL.

Charles C. Tyler, son of A. Elmore.

At the present time the town has but a little upwards of forty voters, and the population, according to the census of 1904, was but 209. This is for the most part in the north part of the town. The most of the families settling in town in the first half of the last century are unrepresented. William W. Eastman is a great-grandson of Obadiah, chief of the first settlers; Ernest T. Page is a grandson of James J. and a great-grandson of Samuel; Orman L. Mann is a grandson of Samuel; Alonzo Annis is a great-grandson of Joseph; Daniel M. Howe is a son of Daniel; James H. Keyser is a son of William; George Welch is a grandson of Jonathan; Solomon J. Hutchins is a grandson of Benjamin C.; Birt Cox is a son of John P.; and the Tyler brothers, Fred M., A. Elmore and Byron M., are grandsons of Kimball. On the other hand the names Whitcher, Wells, Marston, Coburn, Brown, Davis, Wright, Lathrop, Knight, Torsey and Flanders, once so prominent, have disappeared from the voting list. There has been a decadence, but Benton is by no means, as yet, an abandoned town. It has a past which is fondly cherished by her widely scattered sons and daughters, and there are not a few who believe that the march of events will bring her a prosperous future.

CHAPTER VI.

RELIGIOUS AND SOCIAL LIFE.

The religious and social life of the town has been to a large extent one, and such as been peculiar to the town is that which has characterized the northern part of the town, since the interests of the High Street neighborhood have been from this point of view largely identified with those of Warren, as have those of the Meadows, and the Page District with East Haverhill. There has not, so far as known, ever been a religious organization in these last named sections, except that for a few years when the Rev. William C. Bixby lived at High Street, it is probable that a Methodist class was organized and meetings were held at the High Street school house and in private dwellings. The Adventists also sometimes held religious services in the school house. The community at the north part of the town was, however, at the beginning, and has been in the subsequent years, one by itself, and has furnished whatever has been characteristic and distinctive in Coventry and Benton social and religious life. "The Hollow," or Whitcher Hollow, as it has usually been called, has been the center, for here was the first sawmill and gristmill, the blacksmith and wheelwright shops, the post office, except for the few first years after it was established, the store, and just up the hill to the east "around the turn", the meeting house. Haverhill Corner was ten miles distant, and Bath Lower Village seven, and in the early days the roads were either poor, or there were none at all, and the Coventry settlers had little communication with the outside world. They had little to sell. They burned wood

and made potash to some extent, they raised herds grass and clover and ground out or threshed out the seed, they made maple sugar, and for many years these were about the only products they had for sale or barter at the Bath and Haverhill stores. Later, after they had built sawmills, they hauled lumber to Kimball's Landing on the banks of the Connecticut a mile or so below the village of Woodsville, they made butter firkins, manufactured clapboards, and the long shingles rived from spruce butts, but they had little to sell, and little with which to buy, and so were necessarily compelled to depend upon their own ingenuity and industry to supply their household and personal needs. To many their town was their world. They rarely went outside its boundaries. Clothing was made from cloth manufactured in the home. Boots and shoes were made by the town shoemaker and cobbler from leather tanned from hides taken from cattle raised in town. The household utensils were of the simplest character. Chairs and tables were home products; every household was a manufactory; there was plenty of hard work and plain living, if not of high thinking.

The social life was of the neighborhood character, and was characterized by neighborliness. There were paring bees, quilting parties, raisings, spelling schools with periodical turnouts on muster day and town meeting day. Neighborly visits were made during the long winter evenings. Everybody knew everybody else, and there was a general respect for the opinions of others. Religious services were held with considerable regularity previous to the erection of the meeting house in 1846. The preachers of the Free Will Baptist and Methodist Episcopal denominations were early and exceedingly actively on the ground, which accounts for the fact that the only two church organizations ever

formed in town were of these denominations. Just when the churches were organized does not appear, as the early records have been lost, but the Free Will Baptists appear to have had the advantage of the earlier organization. In the Free Baptist Register for 1833, Landaff and Coventry are classed as a single church, with Samuel Cole and George W. Cogswell as ministers, ordained during the previous year, and with Ira Eaton of Landaff, and Horace Webber and Robert Coburn of Coventry, as licensed ministers. The Lisbon quarterly meeting of which the Landaff and Coventry churches were constituent members was organized in 1833, and in the statistical report for the year 1835, printed in the register, Coventry appears for the first time as a separate church, with Samuel Cole as minister, and with a membership of 50. George W. Cogswell became minister to the church, the next year, 1836, the membership then being reported as 25. He sustained this relation until 1865, though at various periods other ministers were engaged as pastors for terms of one, two or three years. Elder John Norris came from Maidstone, Vermont, and preached for the larger part of the years 1854-55. Elder George W. Richardson was another resident minister in the early sixties. Elder John Davis came out from Centre Haverhill, and Elder Lorenzo D. Jeffers from East Haverhill, and ministered to the people, sometimes for a few Sundays and sometimes for months. Elder A. C. Manson, who resided at Sugar Hill, also preached in Benton for two years.

Capt. Winthrop G. Torsey and Jeremiah B. Davis were licentiates, but for a period of thirty years Elder Cogswell was the minister of the Coventry and Benton church. Other Elders of the denomination might be the preachers, but Benton was his parish, and all this time he kept jealous watch-

care over it. When there was no one else to preach, the Elder drove over from Landaff and proclaimed his message. He was in demand for funerals, since he had the gift of making his congregation weep, and the success of a funeral as a matter of entertainment depended upon the amount of weeping the officiating minister could cause. The Elder had tact also. Some ministers would give offense by omitting mention in their prayers of some of the relatives of the departed. Some cousin or aunt or grandchild or grandparent would be forgotten by the minister as he enumerated the relatives, and then there was trouble because of the slight, but Elder Cogswell managed never to give offense. After beginning with the nearest relatives and going through the list to the best of his recollection, he always had this saving clause in his prayer by asking comfort for "all the other relatives of the deceased whether of near or remote degree of kindred, whether present or absent." The membership of his church varied in the thirty years from 56, the largest number in 1852, to 19 in 1837. This latter number, the Elder always pointed to with pride since it was obtained by the death of one, and by the expulsion of six. The 19 were evidently the saving remnant, since growth began immediately afterwards, reaching high-water mark in 1856 and never falling below 40 during his ministry. He never had a stated salary, but accepted the free will offerings of his people. These were sometimes in cash, but more frequently in eggs, butter, cheese, oats, wheat, potatoes, veal, pork, beef, vegetables of all kinds, etc., etc. The Elder never struck for a higher salary, and the people never complained. If he did a little outside business in trading in horses and cattle, loaning a little money now and then on good security, this was regarded as perfectly legitimate, and the Elder had

an eye for points in both horses and cattle.

In 1866 Elder Morrison of Topsham became the minister, and was the regular preacher for most of the time till 1871, when Elder J. Chamberlin became the minister for a brief period. In 1877 Elder Lorenzo D. Jeffers of East Haverhill became the minister for a year or more, and after this there was no regular Free Will Baptist preaching in town. Winthrop C. Whitcher, son of Amos, was duly licensed as a minister in 1878, but it does not appear that he ever preached in his native town. He soon afterward removed to Stoneham, Mass., and after 1880 no report was made of the church to the Lisbon quarterly meeting or the New Hampshire yearly meeting. The organized church rapidly disintegrated through the death and removal of its members, and is now numbered among the things which were.

Just when Methodism obtained its foothold in town does not appear, but the beginnings may be traced to the year 1801, when Elijah R. Sabin, who had been appointed by the New York conference preacher to a territory embracing all of northern New Hampshire, under the name of Landaff circuit, stopped over Sunday on his way to Landaff at the house of Chase Whitcher, near Warren Summit, and held religious services under the maples at what is now known as the Harriman place. His congregation was for the most part from Coventry, from High street, and the Meadows, and when he left on Monday he organized a Methodist class of three, two of whom were Chase Whitcher and his daughter, Dolly, afterwards the wife of John Atwell, who was one of the early settlers of North Coventry. William Whitcher, the eldest son of Chase, was then a boy of 18. He did not become a member of that class, the first in the entire north country except that organized a year or two previously at

Landaff, but his life-long attachment to Methodism began with that Sunday in 1801 under the ministrations of the first apostle of Methodism in Northern New Hampshire, Elijah R. Sabin. When he set up his own home in the north part of the town he had become a Methodist and later was a licensed exhorter and local preacher for many years. He was reinforced later by Daniel Howe, Enos Wells, Israel Flanders and others who became the nucleus around which the Methodist Episcopal church was gathered. The other early settlers were for the most part—Peter Howe, the Mars-ton, Wrights, Coburns, Davises, and Browns—Free Will Baptists, though there were a few, like for instance, the Tylers and Manns, who were inclined to a more liberal sort of faith. Coventry was a part of the Landaff circuit from 1801 to 1824, when it became a part of the Orford circuit, and three years later, in 1827, a part of the Haverhill circuit. From 1827 to 1851, Coventry—Benton—was made a part of a circuit which was composed of various churches, and was classed at different times with Haverhill, East Haverhill, North Haverhill, Bath, Landaff, Lyman and Lisbon. In 1851 Swiftwater and Benton were made an appointment in the New Hampshire conference, and were so continued till 1904, a period of 53 years, during which time the Methodist preachers occupied the pulpit of the union meeting house on alternate Sundays until 1879, when an arrangement was made by which there were services at Swiftwater in the morning and at Benton in the afternoon. In 1904 Benton was abandoned by the appointing power of the Methodist church, and Swiftwater was classed with Landaff as an appointment.

In the early days, previous to 1846, when the meeting house was erected, though a Methodist class was organized

as early as 1816, there was no regular preaching by the itinerants of this denomination. They came as suited convenience and circumstances. Their pulpits were in barns, school houses and private dwellings, as opportunity offered. Among the preachers who visited the town were those whose names became historic in New England Methodism. The mention of a few of these will suffice: Asa Kent, Elijah Hedding, Solomon Sias, Jacob Sanborn, Lewis Bates, Abraham Merrill, Samuel Kelley, Benjamin R. Hoyt, Dan Young, Charles Baker, George Storrs, Ebenezer Ireson, N. W. Aspinwall, Charles A. Cowing, Holman Drew, Silas Quimby, Chas. D. Cahoon, Justin Spaulding, E. Brown, and G. W. H. Clark. In 1844 and 1845 Henry H. Hartwell was one of the three preachers assigned to the Haverhill, East Haverhill, North Haverhill and Benton circuit, and he devoted much of his time to Benton. Under his ministrations there was a wide spread old time revival, and in 1846 the Union Meeting house was erected, and thenceforward until 1904 the town enjoyed stated religious services. The Union Meeting house society was duly incorporated, and at the annual meetings the pew holders would declare their religious preferences, and the occupancy of the house for the different Sundays of the year was determined by these preferences. The Free Will Baptists and Methodists were entitled to the use of the house for the most of the time, and as a general rule, used it on alternate Sundays down to the disintegration of the former church, when the house by a sort of common consent passed under Methodist control. During all of this period, however, the Universalists, and later the Second Adventists had the use of the house for services of their own for a few Sundays of each year whenever they were favored with the presence of ministers of their respective denomina-



BENTON MEETING HOUSE, ERECTED 1846.



REV. GEORGE W. COGSWELL.



DEA. WINTHROP G. TORSEY.

tions. Between the years 1846 and 1851 the Methodist ministers who were appointed over the Benton church were : 1846-47, Newell Culver ; 1848, E. Brown ; 1849, G. W. Bryant ; 1850, the pulpit was supplied by Joseph E. King, principal of the Newbury, Vt., seminary.

In 1851 Daniel W. Barber was appointed to Swiftwater and Benton. The membership of the two churches, which for statistical purposes were henceforward regarded as one, was reported as 111, including 25 probationers. A parsonage owned jointly by the two churches was erected at Swiftwater, adjoining the church there, but it was understood that the pastor was to devote half his time to his Benton flock.

The appointments subsequently made were as follows : 1852-3, Thomas J. Andrews ; 1854-5, Oloff H. Call ; 1856-7, Charles R. Homan ; 1858-9, John English ; 1860-1, Greenleaf P. Warner ; 1862-3, Joseph Fawcett ; 1864-5, John English ; 1866, Alfred B. Best ; 1867, G. C. Noyes ; 1868-70, Samuel F. Lougee ; 1871, Henry Chandler ; 1872, Arnold Adams ; 1873, supply ; 1874, supply ; 1875, supply ; 1876, supply ; 1877, supply ; 1878, supply ; 1879, William Ramsden ; 1880-1, Claudius Byrne ; 1882, J. M. Buffum ; 1883-4, L. W. Prescott ; 1885-6, C. E. Rogers ; 1887-8, J. N. Bradford ; 1889-91, Henry Hammond ; 1892-4, I. C. Brown ; 1895-6, J. R. Dinsmore ; 1897, A. G. Smith ; 1898-1900 ; E. C. Clough ; 1901-3, W. A. Hudson. There is no separate record of the Benton membership, but at the beginning of the union of the church with that at Swiftwater in a single quarterly conference, the membership of the two churches was about equal, but beginning with about 1870 that at Benton began to decline, and at the time of the abandonment of the field by the denomination the present year, had become but a mere handful. For the

years 1873-78 the churches at both Benton and Swiftwater had no regular pastor appointed by the conference, but the pulpits were occupied by John Currier one year, John Winslow for two years, J. S. Jewett, a local preacher from Warren, one year, while some of the time during this period a young Free Will Baptist clergyman from Maine, and the Rev. S. E. Quimby, then living at Newbury, Vt., acted as occasional supplies for a few months at a time. The Benton pulpit was also occupied at various times by ministers of the Advent faith. The meeting house was repaired and thoroughly renovated in 1869, the lofty choir gallery being torn down and placed on a small platform opposite the pulpit, while the overhead vestry was abandoned and a smaller one constructed in the north end of the basement. Some twenty years later other repairs were made. The salaries paid preachers, either Free Will Baptist or Methodist, were not large. The Baptists on two or three occasions secured a regular pastor with promise of a salary varying from \$300 to \$400, but there were arrearages, failures to pay, and these pastorates were brief. The Methodist pastors were promised salaries varying from \$350 to \$450 for the two churches at Swiftwater and Benton, besides the use of the parsonage, and these were usually paid, if the proceeds of donation parties were added. None of the Benton ministers, however, ever became purse proud.

The Benton meeting house was a center of social life, and except for the post office almost the only center. Until within a few years the order of the Sunday services was, preaching in the morning, immediately followed by Sunday school, preaching at 1.30 p. m. and a prayer or conference meeting at 5 o'clock during the summer months, and at early candle lighting during the winter. Not all the people attended

the Sunday school at the nooning hour. That was designed for the youngsters and women. The men adjourned to the long row of horse sheds where they discussed the sermon to which they had listened and—other matters. Nearly everybody “went to meeting.” The object may have been to listen to the sermon and worship, while with some, the instinct of getting together, keeping touch with each other, furnished by the noon hour, or in other words, the social instinct may have been the impelling force. If great inspiring thoughts were not imparted by the sermons of George W. Cogswell or John Davis or Charles R. Homan or John English, it was something for the hard-working men and women to don Sunday clothes, get together and exchange views. The “meeting house” prevented the West district, the East district, and the South district of this backwoods community from becoming isolated sections. The meeting house, even as a Sunday rendezvous, to say nothing of its being a place of worship, was worth vastly more to Benton than it ever cost. The singing schools were also held at the meeting house, and what singing schools they were. When one remembers Joseph Y. Cheney, with his violin, one of the most famous old time singing masters, it is useless to talk of conservatories of music. And there were other things connected with the singing school which bring up tender recollections. The choir in the Benton church was a famous one before the choir gallery was degraded nearly to the level of the floor. That choir, in its palmyest days, should have been heard to be appreciated. There was no organ or other instrument of music until more degenerate times. John E. Keyser reigned supreme with his tuning fork. His favorite choir, all trained by “Joe Cheney”, held the seats in the early sixties. There were Charles H. Whitcher, Winthrop

C. Whitcher, James E. Whitcher, Amarett A. Whitcher, Florence E. Whitcher, William F. Whitcher, Mary E. Whitcher, Frances C. Whitcher, Elvah G. Whitcher, Edward F. Mann, George Henry Mann, Van Buren Glazier, Phebe A. Howe, Dorcas Howe, George Wilson (who couldn't sing, but didn't know it) and "Uncle Billy" Eastman. There was music in "Uncle Billy's" soul, and in his voice as well. Dr. Eben Tourjee of the Boston Conservatory would have turned green with envy to hear that choir sing the Easter Anthem, with the solo by "Uncle Billy," beginning with, "And did he rise? etc." One of the great musical events occurred on one occasion when John Keyser's sensibilities had been ruffled and the choir was on a strike. Elder Cogswell occupied the pulpit. "Uncle Billy" never struck, and he occupied the gallery alone, but "Uncle Billy" sang bass. The Elder took in the situation. He spied the wife of Deacon Amos Whitcher in her pew. In her younger days she had attempted to sing. The Elder said: "Sister Polly, if you will go up in the gallery with brother William, you can sing soprano, he can sing bass, and I'll sing alto, and I guess we'll have some singing, even if brother Keyser *has* a sore throat." Sister Polly went; she sang soprano, "Uncle Billy", bass, and the Elder came in on the alto. They just sang. The recalcitrant choir sitting down stairs in the pews enjoyed the Elder's alto and "Aunt Polly's" soprano, even if John Keyser did look glum.

Some of the ministers will be remembered, not only for their godliness and saintliness, and they were for the most part of this sort, but also for other peculiarities. Elder John Davis informed the congregation one Sunday that he was "bound for the Kingdom," and was going "as far as God

and my legs will carry me." Elder Cogswell, on a funeral occasion, when the death was caused by diptheria, announced "they are having diptheria up our way, and the young folks are scared and are getting religion." It was also on this occasions that he gave his famous recipe for the cure of the dread disease, a compound of West India molasses, cayenne pepper and salt pork, with the formula for preparation. Joseph Fawcett, the Methodist clergyman of the time, sat in the pulpit with the Elder. He was a scholarly man, an able preacher, who, somehow, had been appointed to Swiftwater and Benton. The personification of dignity and culture, he sat during the Elder's discourse with a broad smile illuminating his face. After the service, while at the house of one of his parishioners, his good wife took him to task for his jolly demeanor on so solemn an occasion, but his reply was: "When I feel tickled I can't feel solemn." Joseph Fawcett was an Englishman. His use and abuse of his h's was a great source of amusement to the young people. There was quite a wide spread revival during his pastorate, and in the special services which were held he was assisted by the Rev. Lewis P. Cushman, then at Landaff. The sermons were of the old fashioned orthodox variety. George W. Mann, who was an ardent Universalist, felt called upon to warn the young people not to be led away by fears of hell, and now and then in the midst of the revival services exercised his gift in this direction. One evening, after Mr. Cushman had made a specially fervent appeal, Mr. Mann started in to refute what had been said, when Mr. Cushman interrupted, saying, "let us sing," and with his powerful voice started the hymn:

"Jesus, Great Shepherd of thy sheep,
To thee for help we fly,

Thy little flock in safety keep,
For oh, the wolf is nigh."

Mr. Mann sat down. Later in the evening he made a second attempt, when the versatile Mr. Cushman was ready with another hymn, beginning :

"Vain man, thy fond pursuits forbear,
Repent, thine end is nigh,
Death at the farthest can't be far,
Oh, turn before thou die."

The Universalist brother gave it up. Then there was Daniel W. Barber, the man with the wooden arm, who preached the doctrine of Christian perfection, and with scrupulous and painstaking care collected his salary ; Charles R. Homan, who was strong on church discipline and kept a sharp lookout for any deviation on the part of members of his flock from paths marked out by the Methodist discipline ; John English, twice the appointee at Swiftwater and Benton, who drove a good horse and who was ready always to accept donations of country produce ; Greenleaf P. Warner, who was Methodist pastor during the days of the war, and whose strong Democratic pro-slavery sentiments led to his leaving the ministry shortly after the close of his Benton pastorate ; A. B. Best, a Dublin University educated Irishman, who somehow couldn't adapt himself to Benton, and whose stay was brief ; Elder Morrison, the Free Will Baptist, who smoked a clay pipe, ate large quantities of saleratus to aid his digestion, and who constantly called attention to the topic "under consideration," though his hearers were never able to ascertain what the topic was. These were characters among the Benton ministers, and some of them will be long remembered. The visits of the Presiding Elders were events of importance, and among those who were specially welcomed

were William D. Cass, Newell Culver, James Pike, Elisha Adams and Lorenzo D. Barrows.

The Free Will Baptist quarterly meetings now and then held with the Benton church were also great occasions. The ministers and delegates from a dozen or so churches were present, and the meetings usually began Friday afternoon and continued through Sunday. Everybody attended, and there was a general holiday. The religious services were fervid and always of an evangelistic character, and

"The eating and the drinking, too,
Were beautiful and fine."

Half a century ago when Benton was peopled by a church going community, the meeting house was well filled. They were all there; the Marstons, Torseys, Davises, Wellses, Browns, Whitchers, Shermans, Manns, Flanders, Keyzers, Wrights, Coburns, Tylers, Howes, Giffords, Eastmans, Annises, Wilsons, Glaziers, with several families from South Landaff and Bunga. Every now and then were revivals or protracted meetings, when the Methodists and Baptists would unite in a spirit of brotherly love and harmony which continued until it came to a disposition of the converts. Deacon Amos Whitcher was on the lookout for recruits for the Baptists, while his sister, Louisa, wife of Sylvester Eastman, who was fully as ardent a Methodist as Deacon Amos was Baptist, had as sharp a look out for Methodist recruits. The efforts of "Uncle" Amos and "Aunt" Louisa to gain adherents to their respective denominations were sometimes productive of anything but brotherly and sisterly love, and sometimes before the convert was safely landed he had escaped both nets and remained in a backslidden state until reclaimed at the next protracted meeting.

There was no country store in town, and in its absence the

post office was another social center. Previous to 1844 the town was without a post office, and for many years after its settlement, letters were obtained from the Haverhill office ten miles distant. In the year, however, after the County road, so called, from Haverhill Corner through Coventry, Bunga, and East Landaff to Franconia had been completed, a mail route was established between Haverhill Corner and Franconia, with post offices at Benton and East Landaff. Ira Whitcher was the first postmaster, but having been elected to the legislature in 1845, he resigned, and Chase Whitcher was appointed. He, too, was elected to the legislature in 1852, and on his resignation Amos Whitcher was appointed, holding the office for nearly thirty years, until his removal from town. Subsequent postmasters were Frank Moulton and D. F. Richardson. After the removal of the latter from town Mrs. Ruth J. Veazey, wife of Charles A., was appointed postmistress, and still holds the office. In the early fifties the route from Haverhill to Franconia was abolished, that town, as well as East Landaff, being accommodated by a new route from Littleton, while Benton and Haverhill Center were given a mail twice a week over a route from North Haverhill. This was maintained until about 1885 when a new route with daily mail was established from Woodsville with post offices at Swiftwater, Whitcherville, Benton and Wildwood. A few years later the Whitcherville post office was discontinued, and in 1902, on the establishment of a rural delivery route covering the Swiftwater and a part of the Benton territory, the Swiftwater post office was also discontinued. The present route is from Woodsville through Benton to Wildwood with a daily mail, and with offices at the two last named places.

The palmy days of the post office were when Amos



"THE HOLLOW;" TOWN HALL, RESIDENCE OF C. A. VEAZEY, POST-OFFICE AND STORE.

Whitcher was the postmaster and the office was located in the kitchen of his dwelling house. The mail days were Wednesdays and Saturdays, the carrier making the trip to North Haverhill in the morning and returning in the evening. The town's people did not carry on an extensive correspondence with the outside world, but there was always a chance of receiving a letter, so most of the families of the town were represented, by from three to five members, at the post office on the evenings when "Uncle Amos" or "Aunt Polly," assisted by other members of the family, emptied the contents of the bag on the kitchen table, and proceeded to sort and deliver its contents to the crowd that surged around them looking over the shoulders of the post office family to ascertain as far as was possible for whom letters were received, with such additional information as might be gained from a glance at the postmarks and the handwriting on the envelopes. If anyone received a letter the fact became generally known and there were more or less accurate surmises as to the writer and the contents of the epistle. Going to the post office on Wednesday or Saturday evenings was an event of no small importance. If there were no letters there were the usual newspapers, Isaac Hill's *New Hampshire Patriot* or Redding's *Democratic Republican*, printed at Haverhill. One or both these staunch organs of the Democratic party were taken in nearly every household, and such families as did not subscribe had no delicate scruples concerning borrowing. For many years but one copy of a *Whig*—afterwards *Republican*—newspaper came regularly in the Benton mail. Ira Whitcher took the *New Hampshire Statesman*, a fact which gave rise in the minds of some to suspicions concerning his Democratic orthodoxy. The literary appetite of the few who made pretensions to literary tastes was appeased by the

True Flag, Graham's Magazine and Ballou's Dollar Monthly, for each of which there were now and then subscribers. Deacon Amos Whitcher and two or three others of the Baptist brethren took The Morning Star, while Zion's Herald went regularly into several Methodist homes. During the presidential campaigns a club of subscribers to the Boston Post weekly campaign edition was usually gotten up, for Benton was nothing if not a Democratic town by an overwhelming majority. There were always crowds at the post office on the arrival of the mail, and the boys and girls and young people were out in force. "Aunt Polly's" kitchen would be packed. It is little wonder that some of the youngsters intimated that she was not possessed of a sweet disposition. Their presence and behavior would have exhausted the patience of a saint. The Benton post office was indeed a social, and at the same time something of a literary center. The young people had something of the same opportunities enjoyed by their elders in the meeting house horse sheds on Sundays.

There were few social organizations. Indeed, there is a record of but one, a body of the Independent Order of Good Templars. This came into being in 1868, flourished for a little while, and went out of existence some two years later. The leading spirits in this organization were: George W. Mann, John E. Keyser, Charles H. and Winthrop C. Whitcher, and George Henry Mann. There were of course large numbers of the opposite sex belonging, but the leading spirits were those above named. The records which are still in existence indicate that when Henry Mann left town the life and enthusiasm of the lodge departed. Benton did not furnish good soil for lodges and fraternal organizations. Most of the people were too much concerned with the prob-

lems of daily existence to give much time to such matters, and as they cost money the practical question which arose was, do they pay? The good people who joined the Good Templars were for the most part those who never "looked upon the wine when it is red," and were in no particular danger of becoming inebriates. The few who were not total abstainers who became members served a good purpose perhaps in furnishing the lodge with business aside from the routine ritual, since considerable time was consumed at the meetings, after the lodge got fairly organized, in dealing with those who had violated their pledges. Those who drank now and then were expelled, and the total abstainers finally came to the conclusion that they would still remain total abstainers if there were no lodge. And then again, Henry Mann had entered the employ of the railroad, and had moved out of town. There were, during the century of the town's history, a few who contented themselves with out-of-town lodges of Masons and Odd Fellows, but they were very few. The great majority of the citizens of Benton were never "jiners." They had simple tastes, and they lived plain simple lives. They were mutually helpful. They were honest in their dealings with each other, and there was in all the life of the town a high tone of morality. Family ties were strong, the obligations of neighbors were recognized and kept, and departure from the paths of strict morality brought a loss of social caste. The people were homogeneous. Not until recent years was there any infusion of the Irish or French Canadian, but the families were for the most part descended direct from the English who settled Essex county, Mass., in the years between 1630 and 1650. The most enterprising and ambitious did not remain in town. They sought other localities, and many of them won success

and positions of honor and influence in other communities. This was due of course largely to natural ability, but there was also the influence of the social and religious environments in early life in this sparsely settled, mountainous, sterile, backwoods town of Coventry—Benton.

CHAPTER VII.

TOWN MEETINGS AND POLITICS.

Coventry—Benton—was a town which almost from the beginning of its history made much of its town meetings, and its citizens were pronounced in the expression of their political opinions. In the early days they were for the most part Federalists, but later, when the north part of the town came to be settled, the residents of that section were Jeffersonian Democrats, and in the days of Andrew Jackson the town became unanimously Democratic. It remained pretty nearly so for years, and even after the organization of the Republican party, and the transference of New Hampshire from the Democratic column to the Republican column of states, Benton always remained faithful to its Democratic allegiance, though in the past few years the voters have been nearly equally divided in their political preferences, and once, in 1896, the Republicans elected their candidate for Representative to the General Court.

In the days, however, when the town was unanimously or nearly unanimously Democratic, there were bitter contests for the town offices and for the office of representative, all the more bitter perhaps, since nearly all parties to the contests were Democrats. For many years there were three parties; the Page party, led by James J. and Daniel D. Page, and having their adherents for the most part in the Page district, the Meadows and at High Street; the Wells party, of which Capt. Enos Wells was the head, with his sons for lieutenants, and the Whitcher party, of which William Whitcher, and later his sons, were the head. Neither

of these parties or factions was ever quite able to control a majority of the voters, and so the way was opened for alliances, offensive and defensive, for bargains and deals, and the opportunity was improved and there were alliances, bargains and deals, and Benton political campaigns lasted all the year round. It was a dull boy, brought up in Benton, who had not become a pretty well trained politician by the time he reached his majority.

But the town meetings were not wholly given over to politics. In proportion to its means the voters of few towns ever taxed themselves more generously for the support of highways and schools. The appropriations were made with care, and money raised by taxation was for the most part expended economically and judiciously. The first town meeting was held at the house of Major Jonathan Hale, Dec. 30, 1801, and was for the purpose of organizing a town government. Obadiah Eastman was chosen moderator, Salmon Niles, town clerk, and Samuel Jackson, Obadiah Eastman and Barnabas Niles, selectmen.

The town meetings thereafter were as follows :

[1802.] Meeting held March 9, at the house of Major Jonathan Hale. Chose : moderator, Barnabas Niles ; town clerk, Salmon Niles ; selectmen, Samuel Jackson, Obadiah Eastman, William Coolidge ; constable, Elisha Ford ; surveyors of highways, James Eastman, Barnabas Niles.

Voted to raise \$38 for the support of schools, \$40 for repairing roads, and \$18 for town charges.

March 24, a meeting of the voters of Haverhill and Coventry for the choice of representative in the General Court was held at the house of Major Jona. Hale. Chose : moderator, Dr. Ross Coon, of Haverhill ; representative, Col. Moody Bedell, of Haverhill.

August 30. A meeting was held to vote for members of Congress. Eight votes were cast, all for Samuel Tenney, Silas Betton, Clifton Claggett, Samuel Hunt and David Hough, all Federalists.

Voted to alter the road from the foot of hill below Jonathan Hale's grist mill to Mr. Elisha Ford's cornfield.

[1803.] The annual town meeting was held at the house of Major Jonathan Hale, March 8. Chose: moderator, Major Jona. Hale; town clerk, Salmon Niles; selectmen, Obadiah Eastman, Jonathan Hale, William Coolidge; constable and collector, Elisha Ford; treasurer, James Eastman; surveyors of highways, James Eastman, Barnabas Niles, Nathan Mead; hog reeves, David Marston, Jonathan Hale, William Blair; fence viewers, Samuel Jackson, Barnabas Niles, Hugh Matthews; tything men, Obadiah Eastman, Robert Elliott.

Voted to raise \$40 for the support of schools, \$130 for making and repairing roads, \$22 to defray town charges, a total of \$192.

March 24. At an adjourned meeting, voted for state and county officers. For governor, John Langdon, dem., received 3 votes; John Taylor Gilman, fed., 4. Ten votes were cast for councillor, senator and county officers, of which the Democratic candidates received 3, and the Federalists 7. Chose: William Coolidge, pound keeper, and voted that the lower stable in the barn of Salmon Niles be made pound.

[1804.] Annual town meeting held March 13, at home of Jonathan Hale. Chose: moderator, William Coolidge; town clerk, Salmon Niles; selectmen, William Coolidge, Salmon Niles, Samuel Jackson, Jr.; constable, Elisha Ford; sealer of weights and measures, Salmon Niles; sur-

veyors of highways, Samuel Jackson, Barnabas Niles, Nathan Mead ; tything man, David Marston, Jr.

The vote for state and county officers showed that the Jeffersonian leaven had begun to work. For governor John Taylor Gilman, fed., received 3 votes ; John Langdon, dem., 11. For county officers 16 votes were cast, of which the Democratic candidates received 13.

April 13. At an adjourned meeting voted to raise \$20 for defraying town charges, \$35 for support of schools, and \$70 to repair highways, a total of \$125.

A need was evidently felt of a pound, for the voters proceeded to provide for one, which certainly would seem to have been ample in strength to hold the most unruly of cattle.

Voted that, with the permission of Major Hale, a pound be built at or near the corner of his land ; said pound to be built of stone, 30 feet square 4 feet thick at the base, 18 inches at the top, 6 feet high, to be capped with white pine or hemlock timbers 10 x 12 inches, with one gateway 3 feet wide, to be provided with a gate of timber not less than 3 inches thick, and fitted to the gateway ; that the pound be set up at vendue to be struck off to the person who will become obligated to erect the same by the 30th day of June for the lowest sum of money.

The pound was bid off by Samuel Jackson for \$18.75.

Voted to raise \$40 for the purpose of procuring a standard of weights and measures.

August 27. At a meeting held 11 votes were cast for members of Congress : Democratic 6, Federalist, 5.

Nov. 5. At a meeting held to vote for presidential electors, the Democratic ticket headed by Oliver Peabody received 6 votes, the Federalist ticket headed by John Goddard, 4.

[1805.] March 12. Annual town meeting was held at house of Jonathan Hale. Chose: moderator, Barnabas Niles; town clerk, Salmon Niles; selectmen, Obadiah Eastman, Salmon Niles, Samuel Jackson, Jr.; highway surveyors, David Marston, James Ford, Daniel Doty; highway surveyor for north district, William Coolidge; collector of taxes, David Marston, at 5 per cent. Voted to raise \$20 to defray town charges, \$200 to make and repair highways, and \$20 for schools.

The vote for state and county officers showed a turn in the tide politically, since John Taylor Gilman, fed., received 8 votes for governor, and John Langdon 7. For county officers 17 votes were cast, and Charles Johnston received the entire number for county treasurer. The choice of William Coolidge for surveyor of highways "in the north district" indicated that the settlement of that part of the town had been begun.

[1806.] March 11. Annual town meeting held at the house of Major Jona. Hale, occupied by Daniel Davis. Chose: moderator, Obadiah Eastman; town clerk, Salmon Niles; selectmen, William Coolidge, Samuel Jackson, Jr., Daniel Davis; highway surveyors, Moses Eastman, Daniel Doty, Daniel Davis, William Coolidge; pound keeper, Daniel Davis; hog reeves, Daniel Doty, Jeremiah Jackson, Winthrop Elliott; tything man, Obadiah Eastman; collector of taxes and constable, David Marston, with compensation at 4 3-4 per cent.

Aug. 25. A meeting was held to vote for representative in Congress. The Democratic congressional ticket headed by Jedediah M. Smith received 16 votes, to one cast for the Federalist candidates.

[1807.] March 3. A meeting of the voters of Warren

and Coventry for the choice of representative to the General Court was held at the dwelling house of Daniel Davis in Coventry. Chose: for moderator, William Coolidge; for representative, Obadiah Eastman.

March 10. The annual meeting was held at the dwelling house of Robert Forsaith. Chose: moderator, William Coolidge; town clerk, William Coolidge; selectmen, William Coolidge, Daniel Davis, Salmon Niles; highway surveyors, Samuel Jackson, Salmon Niles, Nathan Mead, William Whitcher; tax collector and constable, David Marston, compensation 4 per cent; tything man, sealer of weights and measures, and surveyor of lumber, Samuel Jackson; hog reeves, William Whitcher, Jonathan Marston, James Ford, Robert Elliott, Jr., Joseph E. Marston. Voted to raise \$20 to defray town charges, \$200 for making and repairing highways, \$25 for support of schools.

For governor 14 votes were cast, all for John Langdon.

[1808.] March 8. Annual town meeting was held at the house of James Eastman. Chose: Moderator, William Coolidge; town clerk, Salmon Niles; selectmen, William Coolidge, Daniel Davis, Elisha Ford; highway surveyors, James Eastman, Elisha Ford, Daniel Doty, William Whitcher; tything man, William Coolidge; pound keeper, Daniel Davis; hog reeves, Moses Eastman, Daniel Davis, Daniel Doty, William Coolidge. Voted to raise \$200 for highways, \$40 for schools, \$160 for town charges, a total of \$400.

For governor John Langdon received 18 votes, John Taylor Gilman, 1.

Aug. 29. At the Congressional election the Federal candidates received 14 votes, the Democratic 8.

Nov. 4. At the Presidential election the Federal elec-

toral ticket headed by Jeremiah Smith received 10 votes, the Democratic, headed by John Langdon, 8. Coventry politics for the year 1808 are not easily understood.

[1809.] March 7. A meeting of the voters of Coventry and Warren for the choice of representatives was held at the house of Daniel Davis. Chose: moderator, Obadiah Eastman; representative, Daniel Davis.

March 14. Annual town meeting was held at home of Daniel Davis. Chose: moderator, Obadiah Eastman, town clerk, Salmon Niles; selectmen, Daniel Davis, Samuel Jackson, Jr., Moses Eastman; highway surveyors, Samuel Jackson, Jr., Benjamin Woodbury, Robert Elliott, Jr., William Witcher; tax collector and constable, Salmon Niles, who agreed to collect taxes free of expense to the town; superintending school committee, William Coolidge, Samuel Aspinwall, Salmon Niles; hog reeves, Moses Eastman, Winthrop Elliott, Daniel Doty.

Voted to raise \$60 for town charges, \$200 for highways, \$64 for schools, a total of \$324.

For governor, John Langdon, dem., received 13 votes, Jeremiah Smith, fed., 13.

[1810.] March 13. Annual town meeting was held at house of Daniel Davis. Chose: moderator, Samuel Aspinwall; town clerk, Samuel Aspinwall; selectmen, Daniel Davis, Samuel Jackson, Jr., Moses Eastman; highway surveyors, Robert Jackson, Benjamin Woodbury, Robert Elliott, Jr., Jonathan Marston, Jesse Tyler; superintending school committee, Obadiah Eastman, Daniel Davis, William Coolidge; collector of taxes, Samuel Jackson, Jr., to collect free of expense to the town; constable, Benjamin Woodbury; hog reeves, Peter Eastman, Winthrop Elliott, William Mead, Jonathan Marston.

Voted to raise \$300 for highways, \$70 for schools, \$35 for town charges.

For governor John Langdon received 13 votes, Jeremiah Smith 8.

Aug. 7. At a meeting to vote for members of Congress held at the house of James Eastman only five votes were cast, all for Josiah Bartlett, John A. Harper, David L. Morrill, Samuel Densmore, Obed Hale.

[1811.] March 5. The voters of Warren and Coventry met at the house of Samuel Aspinwall in Coventry for the choice of representatives to the General Court. Chose: moderator, Obadiah Eastman; representative, Abel Merrill.

March 12. Annual town meeting was held at house of Daniel Davis. Chose: moderator, Daniel Davis; town clerk, Samuel Aspinwall; selectmen, Daniel Davis, Samuel Jackson, Jr., Moses Eastman; superintending school committee, Obadiah Eastman, Daniel Davis, William Coolidge.

Voted to raise \$200 for highways, \$20 to defray town charges, \$70 for schools. The vote for governor was: John Langdon 11, Jere Smith 1.

[1812.] March 13. The annual town meeting was held at the house of James Eastman. Chose: moderator, William Coolidge; town clerk, Samuel Aspinwall; selectmen, Daniel Davis, Samuel Aspinwall, Obadiah Eastman.

Voted that Samuel Aspinwall, Elisha Ford, Daniel Davis, David Marston and Kimball Tyler be a committee to divide the town into school districts.

Voted to raise \$70 for schools, \$30 for town charges, and \$200 for highways. The vote for governor was: for William Plumer 12, John Taylor Gillman 8.

Nov. 2. At the Congressional and Presidential election the Democratic ticket received 10 votes, the Federalist 1.

[1813.] March 9. The annual town meeting was held at the house of James Eastman. Chose : moderator, William Collidge ; town clerk, William Coolidge ; selectmen, William Coolidge, David Marston, Abner Willoughby ; collector of taxes, William Whitcher, with compensation at 1-2 of 1 per cent.

The report of the committee dividing the town into five school districts was accepted.

Voted to raise for highways \$200, for schools \$70 for town charges \$50, total \$320.

The records of the town for the years 1811-1813 were very imperfectly kept.

[1814.] March 8. The annual town meeting was held at the dwelling house of William Coolidge. This was the first time the meeting was held in the north part of the town. There were 45 names on the check list. Chose : moderator, Jonathan Hale ; town clerk, Samuel Aspinwall ; selectmen, William Whitcher, Samuel Jackson, Obadiah Eastman ; highway surveyors, Abraham Norris, William Rogers, Samuel Fairbanks, James Ford, Obadiah Eastman ; tything men, Stephen Jeffers, Samuel Morrill ; treasurer, James Eastman ; fence viewer Chase Whitcher.

Voted to raise for highways \$200, for schools \$70, for town charges \$110.

The vote for governor was : for William Plumer 21, for John Taylor Gilman 21. On the question of calling a constitutional convention 43 votes were given in the negative.

Voted to divide the town into five highway districts.

Aug. 29. At the Congressional election held this day, 15 votes were given for the Democratic ticket headed by John F. Parrat, and 10 for the Federal ticket headed by David Webster. A tax of \$95.30 was levied to build a

school house in district No. 5.

[1815.] Feb. 23. At a special town meeting Daniel Davis was chosen town clerk to fill vacancy caused by removal of Samuel Aspinwall from town, and Robert Jackson selectman to fill vacancy caused by removal of Samuel Jackson.

March 9. At a meeting of voters of Warren and Coventry at the house of James Eastman for choice of representative to the General Court. Chose: moderator, Jonathan Merrill; representative, Capt. Joseph Patch.

March 14. Annual meeting was held at house of James Eastman. Chose: moderator, James Eastman; town clerk, Daniel Davis; selectmen, James Eastman, Robert Jackson, Obadiah Eastman; highway surveyors, William Rogers, Peter Howe, Jr., Stephen Lund, John Russell, Robert Jackson.

Voted to raise for highways \$200, for schools \$75, for town charges \$65. The vote for governor was: John Taylor Gilman 4, William Plumer 17.

[1816.] March 12. Annual meeting at house of James Eastman. Chose: moderator, Daniel Davis; selectmen, James Eastman, William Whitcher, Elisha Ford; highway surveyors, Stephen Jeffers, Moses L. Hobart, James Eastman, Elisha Tyler, William Whitcher; collector of taxes, Jeremiah Jackson, compensation to be 4 3-4 per cent.

Voted to raise for roads \$300, for schools \$100, for town charges \$50. The vote for governor was: James Sheafe, fed., 7, William Plumer, dem., 20.

Nov. 4. At the Congressional and Presidential election Jeremiah Jackson was elected moderator. Only seven votes were cast for congressmen and electors, and those were all for the Democratic candidates.

[1817.] March 4. A meeting of Warren and Coventry voters was held at the house of Moses L. Hobart in Coventry for the choice of representative to the General Court. Chose: moderator, Jonathan Merrill; representative, Capt. Joseph Patch.

March 11. Annual meeting held in school house in district No. 1, High Street. Chose: moderator, Jonathan Hale; town clerk, Daniel Davis; selectmen, Daniel Davis, Robert Jackson, Moses L. Hobart; constables, David Marston, Elisha Ford; highway surveyors, Samuel Page, Nahum Willey, Obadiah Eastman, Moses Knight, William Whitcher.

Voted to raise for schools \$200, highways \$200, town charges \$35, for support of poor \$50.

Voted that the poor be set up at auction. The support of Daniel Tyler was bid off by Kimball Tyler at 62 cents a week, and Persis Tyler by William Whitcher at 5 cents a week.

The vote for governor was: William Plumer, 1; James Sheafe, 5; Josiah Bartlett, 25.

Sept 6. At a special town meeting called to fill the vacancy in the board of selectmen, caused by the removal of Moses L. Hobart from town, chose William Whitcher.

Voted that the selectmen be vested with powers to lease or release a certain cow to Hugh Matthews, now the property of the town.

[1818.] March 10. Annual town meeting was held at the school house in district No. 1. Chose: moderator, David Marston; town clerk, David Marston; selectmen, William Whitcher, Enos Wells, Jonathan Marston; highway surveyors, J. B. Davis, Jonathan Hale, James Eastman, Kimball Tyler, Peter Howe, Jr.; collector, David Marston, with

compensation at 4 1-2 per cent ; constables, David Marston, Elisha Ford.

Voted to raise for town charges \$60, schools \$150, roads \$300, to pay town indebtedness \$150.

The vote for governor was : Josiah Bartlett 7, William Plumer 26.

[1819.] March 9. Annual town meeting was held at the school house in district No. 1. Chose : moderator, Enos Wells ; town clerk, Obadiah Eastman ; selectmen, James Eastman, Obadiah Eastman, Jonathan Marston ; highway surveyors, Timothy Ayer, John Buswell, Samuel Page, John Huntress, David Marston ; treasurer, Moses Knight ; collector, William Whitcher, with compensation at 1 per cent ; constables, Jonathan Marston, John Buswell. On refusal of Capt. William Whitcher to serve as collector, David Marston was chosen.

Voted to raise for support of schools \$150, town charges \$50, roads \$200. The vote for governor was Samuel Bell 21.

March 13. The voters of Warren and Coventry met in Coventry for choice of representatives. Chose Capt. Joseph Patch, representative.

[1820.] March 14. The annual town meeting was held at the school house district No 1. Chose : moderator, Jonathan Hale ; town clerk, Obadiah Eastman ; selectmen, Robert Jackson, Enos Wells, Obadiah Eastman ; highway surveyors, Robert Jackson, Elisha Ford, Stephen Jeffers, Kimball Tyler, Peter Howe ; collector, John Buswell, with compensation at 2 per cent.

Voted to raise for highways \$225, for schools \$150, for town charges \$70. The vote for governor was for Samuel Bell 30.

[1821.] March 13. Annual meeting was held at the school house in district No. 1. Chose: moderator, David Marston; town clerk, Obadiah Eastman; selectmen, Enos Wells, Robert Jackson, Obadiah Eastman; highway surveyors, James Harford, David Elliott, Samuel Page, Aaron Knight, Augustus Coburn.

For governor 31 votes were cast, all for Samuel Bell.

Voted to raise for highways \$200, for schools \$150, for town charges \$29 to be expended in care of the poor.

[1822.] Jan. 9. At a special town meeting, chose: Jesse Eastman, town clerk, and Elijah Gray, selectman, to fill vacancy caused by the removal of Obadiah Eastman from town.

March 12. The annual town meeting was held in the school house in district No. 1. Chose: moderator, David Marston; town clerk, David Marston; selectmen, Enos Wells, Joseph Niles, David Marston; highway surveyors, Samuel Jackson, David Elliott, Samuel Page, Kimball Tyler, Augustus Coburn; collector, Aaron Knight. For governor 29 votes were cast, all for Samuel Bell.

Voted to raise for highways \$250, for schools \$150, for town charges and support of the poor \$75.

[1823.] March 11. Annual meeting at the house of James Eastman. Chose: moderator, Enos Wells; town clerk, David Marston; selectmen, Enos Wells, Joseph Niles, William Whitcher; highway surveyors, Jesse Eastman, David Elliott, Samuel Page, Aaron Knight, Nathaniel Howe; treasurer, Enos Wells; collector, David Marston, with compensation at 2 per cent. For governor 41 votes were cast, all for Levi Woodbury.

Voted to raise for roads \$300, for schools \$100, for town charges \$125.

March 12. The voters of Warren and Coventry met at the house of James Eastman for choice of representative. Chose: moderator, Daniel Patch; representative, Col. Amos Tarleton.

[1824.] March 9. Annual town meeting. Chose: moderator, Enos Wells; town clerk; David Marston; selectmen, Enos Wells, Daniel Batchelder, Augustus Coburn; highway surveyors, Timothy Ayer, Daniel Batchelder, Caleb Page, Israel Flanders, David Marston; collector, David Marston, with compensation at 3 1-2 per cent. For governor 43 votes were cast, all of which were for Levi Woodbury. (Coventry had by this time become a pretty reliable Democratic town.)

Voted to raise for highways \$300, for schools \$100, town charges \$95.

[1825.] March 8. Annual meeting at the school house near James Eastman's. Chose: moderator, Enos Wells; town clerk, David Marston; selectmen, Enos Wells, Daniel Batchelder, James J. Page; highway surveyors, Jonathan Welch, David Elliott, Stephen Jeffers, James Ball, Nathaniel Horne; treasurer, Enos Wells; collector, David Marston, with compensation at 3 1-2 per cent. For governor 47 votes were cast, all for David L. Morrill.

Voted to raise for highways \$300, for town charges \$70, for schools \$100. Voted to accept the North and South road as a laid out highway.

[1826.] March 4. Annual town meeting in school house in district No. 4. Chose: moderator, Enos Wells; town clerk, David Marston; selectmen, Enos Wells, James J. Page, William Whitcher; highway surveyors, Daniel Patch, David Elliott, Moses Mead, James H. Cox, Jonathan Marston; collector, David Marston, with compensa-

tion at 2 per cent. For governor, and other state, and county officers, 44 votes were cast, all for Democratic candidates.

Voted to raise for town charges \$125, for schools \$100, for roads \$300.

[1857.] March 13. Annual meeting held at house of Maj. Jonathan Hale. Chose: moderator, Daniel Patch; town clerk, Jesse Eastman; selectmen, Enos Wells, James J. Page, Jesse Eastman; highway surveyors, Daniel Patch, Jonathan Hale, James J. Page, Enos Wells, William Whitcher; collector, Moses Mead, with compensation at 2 per cent. For governor, congressmen and state and county officers 40 votes were cast for the Democratic ticket.

March 15. The voters of Coventry and Warren met at the school house in district No. 1 for the choice of representative. Chose: moderator, James Dow; representative, Enos Wells.

Aug. 18. James Eastman deeded the burying ground at High Street to the town.

[1828.] March 11. Annual town meeting held in school house, district No. 1. Chose: moderator, Daniel Patch; town clerk, Jesse Eastman; selectmen, Enos Wells, Jesse Eastman, Augustus Coburn; highway surveyors, Daniel Patch, Thomas W. Ford, Samuel Page, James Ball, Nathaniel Howe, Elisha Tyler; collector, Moses Mead, at 2 1-2 per cent. The vote for governor was: Benjamin Pierce 50, John Bell 4.

Voted to raise for town charges \$40, for schools the amount required by law, for building and repairing highways \$500.

Chose Enos Wells agent of the town to secure from the legislature an act entitling the town to representation in the General Court. There were 81 names on the check list.

Nov 3. At an election held for presidential electors the ticket headed by John Harvey (Jackson) received 39 votes, that headed by George Sullivan (Adams) received 12 votes.

[1829.] March 10. Annual town meeting was held in district No. 1. Chose: moderator, Daniel Patch; town clerk, Jesse Eastman; selectmen, Enos Wells, Augustus Coburn, Jesse Eastman.

For the first time Coventry elected a representative to the General Court as a town by itself. The effort to secure a special act had been successful, and Enos Wells was elected representative. The vote for governor was: Benjamin Pierce 46, John Bell 11.

Voted to raise for highways \$500, town charges \$87, for schools \$100.

[1830.] March 9. Annual town meeting held at the dwelling house of David Marston, North Coventry. Chose: moderator, Daniel Patch; town clerk, Nathan Coburn; selectmen, James J. Page, Augustus Coburn, Nathan Coburn; representative to General Court, Nathan Coburn; collector, James J. Page, with compensation at 2 per cent. The vote for governor was: Matthew Harvey 56, Timothy Upham 7. It was voted to divide the fourth school district, creating the sixth in the east part of the town.

Voted to raise for schools \$100 for town charges \$87, for highways \$400.

[1831.] March 9. The annual town meeting was held in the school house in district No. 5 for the first time. Chose: moderator, Enos Wells; town clerk Nathan Coburn, selectmen, Nathan Coburn, James J. Page; representative, Nathan Coburn. The vote for governor was: Samuel Dinsmore 58, Ichabod Bartlett 5. It was voted to divide the town into seven school districts.

Voted to raise for support of schools \$100, town charges \$200, roads \$500, poor \$110.

[1832.] March 13. Annual town meeting at dwelling house of David Marston. Chose: moderator, Enos Wells; town clerk, Nathan Coburn; selectmen, Enos Wells, Jesse Eastman, Jr., Nathan Coburn. The vote for governor was: Samuel Dinsmore 68, Ichabod Bartlett 4.

Voted to raise for schools \$100, town charges \$300, highways \$300.

Nov 2. At a meeting to vote for presidential electors the vote for electoral ticket, headed by Benjamin Pierce (Jackson), was 57, for that headed by Langley Boardman (Clay) was 6.

[1833.] March 12. Annual town meeting at school house, district No. 5. Chose: moderator, Daniel Batchelder, Jr.; town clerk, Nathan Coburn; selectmen, Nathan Coburn, James J. Page, Daniel Batchelder, Jr.; representative, Nathan Coburn.

Voted to raise for highways \$300, for schools \$150, for town charges \$75.

[1834.] March 11. Annual town meeting held at the dwelling house of Deliverance Woodward. Chose: moderator, Daniel Batchelder; town clerk, Deliverance Woodward; selectmen, Daniel Batchelder, Nathan Coburn, Deliverance Woodward; representative, Daniel Batchelder. For governor 73 votes were cast, all for William Badger.

Voted to raise for highways \$300, for schools \$150, for town charges and poor \$300.

[1835.] March 10. Annual town meeting, school house, district No. 5. Chose: moderator, Daniel Batchelder; town clerk, Nathan Coburn; selectmen, Daniel Batchelder, Nathan Coburn, David Whitcher; representative,

Daniel Batchelder. The vote for governor was : William Badger, dem., 72, Joseph Healey, whig, 2.

Voted to raise for town charges and poor \$500, for highways \$500, for schools \$150.

Oct. 31. Special town meeting. Chose : Moses Whitcher town clerk, to fill vacancy caused by removal of Nathan Coburn from town ; James J. Page selectman, to fill vacancy caused by removal of Nathan Coburn ; Peter Howe selectman, to fill vacancy caused by death of David Whitcher.

[1836.] March 8. Annual meeting at house of Deliverance Woodward. Chose : moderator, Daniel Batchelder ; town clerk, Deliverance Woodward ; selectmen, James J. Page, Deliverance Woodward, Daniel Batchelder ; representative, Daniel Batchelder ; highway surveyors, Alvah Ayer, Deliverance Woodward, Stephen Jeffers, Jonathan Marston, Chellis Goodwin, Nathan B. Davis, Jacob Whitcher, John Stow ; sealer of weights and measures, Moses Whitcher ; constables, James J. Page, Alvah C. Wright ; superintending school committee, David Page, Moses Whitcher, Daniel Batchelder ; surveyors of lumber, Moses Whitcher, Peter Howe, Jacob Currier, John P. Ayer, Nathan B. Davis.

For governor, Isaac Hill 78 votes ; William Badger 1.

Voted to raise for town charges and poor \$300, highways \$100, schools \$150.

There is no record of a meeting in November for the choice of presidential electors.

[1837.] March 14. Meeting in school house, district No. 5. Chose : moderator, James J. Page ; town clerk, Deliverance Woodward ; selectmen, Enos Wells, James J. Page, Peter Howe ; highway surveyors, John Lathrop, D. Woodward, Stephen Jeffers, Asa Smith, Chellis Goodwin, Nathan B. Davis, Jacob Whitcher, Elisha Tyler ; sealer of

weights and measures, D. Woodward ; surveyors of lumber, Moses Whitcher, D. Woodward, Peter Howe ; hog reeves, Caleb S. Ford, Elijah S. Gray, Moses Mead, Edwin Tyler, Alfred Tyler, William Whitcher, Jr. ; constables, Moses Mead, Nathan B. Davis ; representative to General Court, Enos Wells. For governor 65 votes were cast, all for Isaac Hill.

Voted to receive from the state the "surplus revenues."

Voted that Deliverance Woodward be agent to receive the town's proportion.

Voted that it shall be at the option of the agent to receive it in specie or bills.

Voted that the money be loaned to inhabitants of the town in sums of not more than \$100, or less than \$25, to a single individual, on real estate security.

Voted that the town bring suit against the town of Boscawen for support of Betsey Bowley, and that James J. Page be agent to prosecute the action.

[1838.] March 13. Annual meeting at house of Benjamin Little. Chose : moderator, Daniel Batchelder ; selectmen, Enos Wells, James J. Page, Peter Howe ; representative, Daniel Batchelder ; highway surveyors, John Cummings, Benjamin Little, Stephen Jeffers, James H. Cox, Peter Howe, Alfred Tyler, Jacob Whitcher, Jonas G. Brown ; constables, Daniel Batchelder, William Gannett, Moses Whitcher ; surveyors of lumber, John Lathrop, William Gannett, Peter Howe, Moses Whitcher, Jonas G. Brown ; sextons, Jonathan Marston, Jacob Whitcher ; tything men, Enos Wells, Peter Howe. The vote for governor was : for Isaac Hill 72, James Wilson 7.

Voted to raise for town charges and poor \$250, for schools \$150, highways \$600.

Voted that James J. Page be agent to take charge of the "surplus money."

[1839.] March 12. Annual meeting in school house, district No. 5. Chose: moderator, David Page; town clerk, Enos Wells; selectmen, Moses Whitcher, David Page, Winthrop G. Torsey; representative, Daniel Batchelder; highway surveyors, Josiah F. Jeffers, Caleb S. Ford, Stephen Jeffers, Richard Brown, William Whitcher, Jr., Israel Flanders, Hazen Whitcher, William Keyser; school tax collectors, Jonathan Welch, Caleb S. Ford, David Page, Bartlett Marston, Moses Whitcher, Nathan B. Davis; sealer of weights and measures, Amos Whitcher; constables, Moses Whitcher, Daniel Batchelder, James J. Page, John Cummings; tything men, Nathan B. Davis, Samuel Tyler. The vote for governor was: John Page 77, James Wilson 11. Voted to raise for town charges and poor \$300, for schools \$150, highways \$300.

August 20. Special town meeting in district No. 5 school house. Voted "to discontinue the Meadow road from Haverhill town line to Warren town line, provided the Turnpike Company assume to build and repair said road, and assume liabilities." Chose a committee of five to carry this vote into effect—Daniel Batchelder, Moses Whitcher, Winthrop G. Torsey, Enos Wells, James J. Page. [The condition imposed on the Turnpike Company was not accepted.] Voted that Capt. Amos Whitcher make out a roll of the soldiers who did military duty in 1838, and the selectmen pay the soldiers.

[1840.] March 10. Annual town meeting was held at the school house in district No. 5. Chose: moderator, James J. Page; town clerk, Enos Wells; selectmen, James J. Page, Enos Wells, Moses Whitcher; representative,

James J. Page ; highway surveyors, Jonathan Welch, Solon Woodward, Samuel Page, Winthrop G. Torsey, Samuel Mann, Nathan B. Davis, Hazen Whitcher, Elisha Tyler ; school tax collectors, Josiah F. Jeffers, David Elliott, M. Hull, W. G. Torsey, Ira Whitcher, John Stow, Jr. ; Constables, Moses Whitcher, Daniel Batchelder. The vote for governor was : John Page 74, Enos Stevens 6.

Voted that James J. Page, Enos Wells, Moses Whitcher, and Daniel Batchelder be a committee to transact any business relative to the Meadow road, and that the town raise \$320 to be expended under their direction. Voted to hold the annual meetings in the north and south parts alternately.

November 2. The meeting to vote for presidential electors was held in the school house in district No. 5. For the Democratic ticket, headed by John W. Weeks, 73 votes were given ; for the Whig ticket, headed by James Healy, 9.

It was in the year 1840 that the town took the name of Benton, an act changing the name from Coventry having been passed by the legislature of 1839, which was ratified at the annual meeting in March, 1840, by a vote of 77 to 2, Major Samuel Mann and Ira Whitcher giving the two negative votes. There were two motives for the change : Coventry was a backwoods town, and Coventry people were the objects of ridicule on the part of the aristocratic class in Bath and Haverhill. If only the name Coventry could be gotten rid of ! Then there was no doubt as to the political sentiment of the town. A community, who in the year of "Tippecanoe and Tyler, too," would stand by Martin Van Buren by a vote of 73 to 9, might pretty safely be called a Democratic town. And was not Thomas H. Benton of Missouri, who, according to the plan of the Jackson dynasty, was to succeed Martin Van Buren in 1844, the heir apparent to

Democratic idolatry? Coventry would rid itself of its hated name and at the same time swear allegiance to the coming president, and it did it. But the result of the election of 1840 blasted the hopes of the Missouri senator, and a change of name did not change the character of the town. It was in this year, 1840, too, that the factions, which for the next thirty years contended for political and official honors in the town, were separated by pretty clear dividing lines. Whigs, and later Republicans, did not count for much, and were pretty thoroughly absorbed in one or the other of the Democratic factions, Page—Wells—Whitcher. From 1840 to 1870 inclusive no one was elected a representative to the General court unless he bore the name of Page, or Wells, or Whitcher, except for the years 1857 and 1860, when George W. Mann, who had married a Whitcher, was elected. No one of these factions ever had of itself a clear majority of the votes, and this fact led to deals and bargains, and the good old Democratic doctrine always prevailed that "to the victors belong the spoils." The chief political prize was the office of representative, but there were other spoils—town clerk, selectmen, highway surveyors, tax collector, school committee, not to mention fence viewers, hog reeves, and such like. Politics was a serious business to the voters of Benton. A campaign began on the evening of the March election and usually lasted all through the year, when compacts more or less binding were made and unmade. Politics entered into business relations, into social life, into church life, even sometimes becoming a factor in revivals of religion. The town in these thirty years, until by death or removal of the leaders of the factions, was a town of partisans. In the year 1840, a Page was elected representative, and a Page, Wells, and Whitcher made up the board of selectmen, but it

was not till long years afterwards that this latter was repeated.

[1841.] March 9. Annual town meeting held at dwelling house of Chase Whitcher on North and South road. Chose: moderator, James J. Page; town clerk, Moses Whitcher; selectmen, James J. Page, Moses Whitcher, John Lathrop; representative, James J. Page by a vote of 68 to 4 for Moses Whitcher. For governor, John Page received 69, all the votes cast. Highway surveyors, John Lathrop, Solon M. Woodward, Lewis Sawyer, Joseph Annis, Ira Whitcher, Samuel Whitcher, Hazen Whitcher, Humphrey P. Tyler; school tax collectors, John Lathrop, Caleb S. Ford, Aaron Knight, Charles K. Merrill, Ira Whitcher, John C. Brown; constables, Daniel Batchelder, Ira Whitcher, Caleb S. Ford; tything men, James J. Page, Moses Whitcher, John Lathrop. One looks in vain for the name Wells in the foregoing list. The "thirty years' warfare" between the factions had begun in earnest.

Voted to raise for town expenses and support of town poor \$250, for highways \$300, for schools \$150.

[1842.] March 8. Annual town meeting held in district No. 5. school house. Chose: moderator, James J. Page; town clerk, Moses Whitcher, selectmen, James J. Page, John Lathrop, Ira Whitcher; highway surveyors, Alvah C. Wright, David Elliott, James J. Page, Orrin Marston, Ira Whitcher, Samuel Whitcher, Hazen Whitcher, Humphrey P. Tyler; sealer of weights and measures, Caleb S. Ford; surveyors of lumber, John Stow, Jr., James J. Page, Ira Whitcher, John Lathrop, Moses Whitcher; constables, Caleb S. Ford, Ira Whitcher. The whole number of ballots cast for representative was 69. Moses Whitcher had 48, James J. Page 10, Enos Wells 1, and Moses

Whitcher was elected. For governor Henry Hubbard had 67, Enos Stevens 4. Voted to raise for town expenses and support of poor \$300, for highways \$350, for schools \$150.

[1843.] March 14. Annual town meeting at house of John Buswell. Chose: moderator, James J. Page; town clerk, Moses Whitcher; selectmen, James J. Page, John Lathrop, Ira Whitcher; highway surveyors, Alvah Ayer, Caleb S. Ford, Benjamin Parker, Gilbert P. Wright, David M. Howe, Samuel Whitcher, Hazen Whitcher, Humphrey P. Tyler; surveyors of lumber, Moses Whitcher, Ira Whitcher, John Lathrop, James J. Page, Caleb S. Ford; supt. school committee, James J. Page, John Lathrop, Moses Whitcher, William Whitcher. For representative, James J. Page had 1 vote, Moses Whitcher 45, and Moses Whitcher was declared elected. The vote for governor stood: Henry Hubbard 48, John M. White 4, Anthony Colby 2. Voted to raise for town charges \$300, for schools \$100, for highways \$300. Voted that the interest on the surplus revenue be distributed equally among the ratable polls on the 1st of April.

[1844.] March 12. Annual town meeting in district No. 5 school house. Chose: moderator, James J. Page; town clerk, Moses Whitcher; selectmen, James J. Page, Ira Whitcher, Winthrop G. Torsey; highway surveyors, James Harriman, James J. Page, John Buswell, Bartlett Marston, James Norris, Samuel Whitcher, Hazen Whitcher, William K. Bruce; surveyors lumber, William Eastman, Moses Whitcher, Enos Wells, John Brown, Jacob Currier; superintending school committee; Moses Whitcher, James J. Page, John Lathrop.

On the first ballot for representative there was no choice. It stood, James J. Page 10, Enos Wells 17, John Lathrop

20, Moses Whitcher 40. The second ballot resulted as follows: James J. Page 4, Enos Wells 14, John Lathrop 16, Moses Whitcher 53, and Moses Whitcher was declared elected. The vote for governor was: John H. Steele 81, John H. White 6. Voted to raise for schools \$150, for town charges \$300, for highways \$400.

Nov. 4. At the Presidential election the Democratic ticket, headed by William Badger, received 83 votes, and the Whig ticket, headed by Joseph Low, 8 votes.

[1845.] March 11. Annual town meeting at the dwelling house of John Lathrop. Chose; moderator, Ira Whitcher; town clerk, Moses Whitcher; selectmen, Enos Wells, Nathan B. Davis, Winthrop G. Torsey; highway surveyors, Josiah F. Jeffers, John Buswell, Ephraim Cross, Joseph Annis, George W. Mann, Noah C. Hutchins, Hazen Whitcher, William K. Bruce; surveyors of lumber, Moses Whitcher, William Eastman, Ira Whitcher, James J. Page, Enos Wells; constables, Nathan B. Davis, James Norris, Caleb S. Ford; superintending school committee, James J. Page, Nathan B. Davis, Moses Whitcher.

William Eastman was elected sealer of weights and measures and was re-elected annually for a period of 28 years.

Ira Whitcher was elected representative on the second ballot. The result of the first ballot was: James J. Page 1, William Whitcher 1, Moses Whitcher 2, Jeremiah B. Davis 2, Enos Wells 40, Ira Whitcher 40; second ballot, Enos Wells 40, Ira Whitcher 45.

The vote for governor was: John H. Steele 71, Anthony Colby 10, scattering 2.

Voted to raise for town charges \$300, for schools \$200, for highways \$350.

[1846.] March 10. Annual town meeting in school

house, district No. 5. Chose: moderator, Ira Whitcher; town clerk, Moses Whitcher; selectmen James J. Page, Jeremiah B. Davis, George W. Mann; highway surveyors, Josiah F. Jeffers, Daniel Bailey, Daniel D. Page, Winthrop G. Torsey, David M. Howe, Nathan B. Davis, Jeremiah A. Clark, Joseph Hutchins; surveyors of lumber, William Eastman, N. B. Davis, Moses Whitcher, Enos Wells, John Stow, Jonathan Clement; constables, Daniel D. Page, Josiah F. Jeffers, Ira Whitcher, James Norris, Chase Whitcher, 2nd.

The ballot for representative resulted as follows: Samuel Howe 2, James J. Page 3, Enos Wells 22, Ira Whitcher 65. The vote for governor was: Jared M. Williams 68, Nathaniel S. Berry 9, Anthony Colby 9.

Voted to raise for town charges \$250, for highways \$400, for schools \$200.

March 21. Ira Whitcher was appointed town clerk to fill the vacancy caused by death of Moses Whitcher.

[1847.] March 9. Meeting at house of John Buswell. Chose: moderator, Enos Wells; town clerk, Ira Whitcher; selectmen, Enos Wells, Peter Howe, Jonas G. Brown; highway surveyors, Robert Gray, Caleb S. Ford, Jonathan Marston, William Whitcher, Israel Flanders, John Brown, Sewell Waterman, Joseph Annis; constables, James Harri-man, William F. Morse, Caleb Ford; surveyors of lumber, Ira Whitcher, James J. Page, William Eastman, John Stow, Enos Wells, William Whitcher; superintending school committee, James J. Page, George W. Mann, Peter Howe. The result of the election for selectmen and representative was a pretty complete triumph for the Wells faction, and Messrs. Page and Mann declined to serve. This left "Uncle Peter" in charge of the schools for the year.

One should have known "Uncle Peter" to properly appreciate the situation. He could read and write and "figger," and his library consisted of the Bible and the Farmers' Almanac.)

There were two ballots for representative. The first stood: Winthrop G. Torsey 1, William K. Bruce 1, Ira Whiteher 1, William C. Stow 1, Daniel D. Page 1, Samuel Howe 6, James J. Page 35, Enos Wells 43. On the second ballot Capt. Enos won out as follows: whole number of ballots 90, W. G. Torsey 1, John Stow 1, Daniel D. Page 1, Samuel Howe 4, James J. Page 32, Enos Wells 51. (The Page contingent were, however, on deck the next year, and Capt. Wells did not secure the usual second term.)

The vote for governor was: Jared W. Williams 78, Anthony Colby 10, Nathaniel S. Berry 5.

Voted to raise for schools \$200, for town charges \$200, for highways \$300.

[1848.] March 14. Annual town meeting at district No. 5 school house. Chose: moderator, Ira Whiteher; town clerk, Ira Whiteher; selectmen, Daniel D. Page, Jonas G. Brown, Jonathan Hunkings; highway surveyors, Jonathan Welch, William Gannett, Daniel D. Page, Jonathan Marston, William Whiteher, Noah C. Hutchins, J. Dean Norris, John Brown, Samuel C. Annis; constables, William Gannett, George W. Mann, Robert Gray; surveyors of lumber, William Eastman, William C. Stow, Ira Whiteher, Jonas G. Brown; superintending school committee, Jonathan Hunkings, Darius K. Davis, James J. Page.

James J. Page was elected representative on the first ballot: whole number of votes 90; W. G. Torsey 1, Samuel Howe 9, Enos Wells, 33, James J. Page 47.

The vote for governor was: Jared W. Williams 83,

Nathaniel S. Berry 9.

Voted to raise for town expenses \$300, schools \$250, highways \$400.

Nov. 7. At the meeting to vote for presidential electors the ticket headed by Samuel Tilton received 75 votes, and that headed by James Bell 11.

[1849.] March 13. Meeting at dwelling house of William Gannett. Chose: moderator, Ira Whitcher; town clerk, Ira Whitcher; selectmen, Daniel D. Page, Nathan B. Davis, Jonathan Hunkings; highway surveyors, James Harriman, Jacob Place, James A. Cox, William Whitcher, William Davis, Merrill Norris, W. Carlos Stow, Samuel C. Annis; surveyors of lumber, William Eastman, W. C. Stow, Jonas G. Brown, Amos Whitcher, Robert Gray, Enos Wells; superintending school committee, James J. Page, George W. Mann, William Eastman.

The whole number of votes cast for representative was 82. Ira Whitcher received 1, Darius K. Davis 1, Robert Coburn 1, Nathan B. Davis 3, Winthrop G. Torsey 11, Enos Wells 18, James J. Page 47, and James J. Page was declared elected.

The vote for governor was: Samuel Dinsmore 79, N. S. Chamberlin 13, Nathaniel S. Berry 4.

Voted to raise for town charges \$250, for highways \$500, schools \$200.

On an article in the warrant to see if the town would vote to settle the Rev. William C. Bixby as minister and give him the minister lot of 100 acres of land, voted in the negative.

[1850.] March 12. Annual meeting in school house, district No. 5. Chose: moderator, Ira Whitcher; town clerk, Chase Whitcher; selectmen, Nathan B. Davis, James

J. Page, Josiah F. Jeffers; highway surveyors, James M. Harriman, Nathan M. Chase, Cornelius Carr, Bartlett Marston, Daniel Whitcher, William Davis, Elijah Curtis, John C. Brown, Caleb Wells; surveyors of lumber, Ira Whitcher, William Eastman, Daniel Whitcher, Jonas G. Brown, Josiah F. Jeffers, George Wells, Bartlett Marston, John Buswell; constables, Peter Howe, 2nd, Daniel Whitcher, Caleb Wells.

Two ballots were taken for representative. On the first the whole number of votes cast was 90. Jonathan Hunkings had 1, Peter Howe, 2nd, 1, Kimball Tyler 2, Enos Wells 2, Samuel Howe 2, Daniel D. Page 37, Ira Whitcher 42. On the second ballot 87 votes were cast. There were scattering 6, Daniel D. Page had 31, Ira Whitcher 50, and was declared elected.

The vote for governor was: Samuel Dinsmore 74, Levi Chamberlin 17, N. S. Berry 5.

Voted to raise for town charges \$300, schools \$200, highways \$400.

Oct 8. At a special town meeting held for the purpose of choosing a delegate to the Constitutional Convention, chose: moderator, Ira Whitcher, delegate, Ira Whitcher.

[1851.] March 11. Annual town meeting held at house of William Gannett. Chose: moderator, Ira Whitcher; town clerk, Chase Whitcher; selectmen, Nathan B. Davis, James J. Page, Josiah F. Jeffers; highway surveyors, James Harriman, Jonathan Stickney, Cornelius Carr, Bartlett Marston, Myron Bailey, Amos Wilson, Elijah Curtis, William Keyser, Gardner G. Annis; constables, Moses W. Howe, Thomas F. Cox, James Harriman; surveyors of lumber, Jonas G. Brown, Ira Whitcher, Gilbert P. Wright, William Eastman, John Buswell, Abel S. E. B. Davis;

superintending school committee, George W. Mann, James Page, Caleb Wells.

The whole number of votes cast for representative was 102. Jonas G. Brown had 1, John K. Davis 1, Caleb Wells 1, James J. Page 1, Daniel D. Page 44, Ira Whitcher 54, and was declared elected.

The vote for governor was : Samuel Dinsmore 74, Thomas E. Sawyer 18, John Atwood 8.

Voted to raise for town charges \$300, schools \$250, highways \$400.

[1852.] March 9. Annual meeting held in No. 5 school house. Chose : moderator, Ira Whitcher ; town clerk, George W. Mann ; selectmen, Ira Whitcher, Darius K. Davis, Jeremiah B. Davis ; highway surveyors, James Harriman, William Gannett, Hiram King, Gilbert P. Wright, Moses W. Howe, John Flanders, Samuel Howe, William K. Bruce, Enos C. Wells ; superintending school committee, Caleb Wells, Amos G. Torsey, Thomas F. Cox ; constable, Samuel Pike ; treasurer, Ira Whitcher.

Chase Whitcher was chosen representative on first ballot, which resulted as follows : Whole number of votes, 91 ; Caleb Wells had 1, Winthrop G. Torsey 1, Darius K. Davis 4, Enos Wells 6, Robert Coburn 11, Chase Whitcher 68. For governor the vote was : Noah Martin 76, Thomas E. Sawyer 20, John Atwood 3.

Voted to raise for town charges \$300, schools \$250, highways \$450. The money raised by taxation for the support of schools was apportioned to the school districts as follows : district No. 1, \$26.07 ; No. 2, \$39.80 ; No. 3, 25.03 ; No. 4, \$45.06 ; No. 5, \$63.56 ; No. 6, \$42.69 ; No. 7, \$7.50.

Nov. 2. At the election for choice of Presidential electors the vote for Democratic electors was 76, Whig 9, Free

Soil 3.

[1853.] March 8. Annual meeting at district No. 1 school house. Chose: moderator, Ira Whitcher; town clerk, George W. Mann; selectmen, Ira Whitcher, Darius K. Davis, Jeremiah B. Davis; highway surveyors, Josiah F. Jeffers, John Hyde, James J. Page, Thomas F. Cox, Amos Whitcher, John Flanders, Samuel Howe, William K. Bruce, Samuel C. Annis; superintending school committee, Darius K. Davis; collector, James Norris; treasurer Ira Whitcher.

Chase Whitcher was chosen representative as the result of the following ballot; whole number of votes 75; Samuel Pike had 1, Robert Coburn 14, Chase Whitcher 60.

The vote for governor was: Noah Martin 76, James Bell 8, John H. White 3.

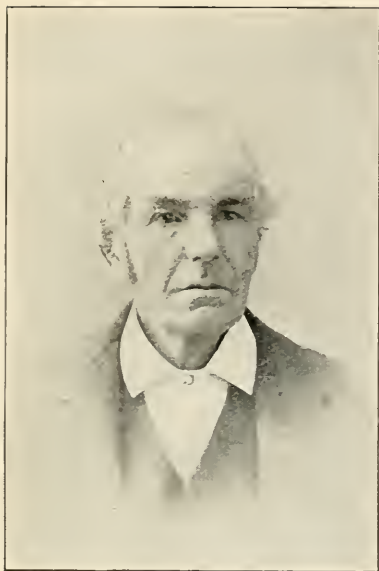
Voted to raise for town charges \$350, schools \$300, highways \$450.

[1854.] March 4. Annual meeting at 5th district school house. Chose: moderator, Ira Whitcher; town clerk, Caleb Wells; selectmen, Ira Whitcher, Silas M. Welch, Gilbert P. Wright; highway surveyors, Josiah F. Jeffers, Jonathan Stickney, Joseph Blake, Gilbert P. Wright, Amos Wilson, Darius K. Davis, Samuel Howe, Walter Mulliken, Caleb Wells; constable, George W. Mann; supt. school committee, Amos G. Torsey; collector of taxes, Daniel Whitcher; treasurer, Ira Whitcher. A ballot for representative resulted in the choice of Enos Wells. Whole number of votes was 100. Necessary to a choice 51. Caleb Morse had 1, Chase Whitcher 1, Darius K. Davis 1, Stephen C. Sherman 3, William Eastman 7, Daniel D. Page 36, and Enos Wells 54. The vote for governor was: Nathaniel B. Baker 90, James Bell 10, Jared Perkins 3. Voted to

raise for town charges \$350, for schools \$300, for highways \$350.

[1855.] March 13. Annual meeting at 1st district school house. Chose: moderator, Ira Whitcher; town clerk, Caleb Wells; selectmen, Silas M. Welch, Gilbert P. Wright, George W. Mann; highway surveyors, John Lathrop, Walter F. Pike, Calvin Corliss, Leonard Brown, Charles C. Tyler, Abel S. E. B. Davis, Daniel Howe, John E. Keyser, George Wells; supt. school committee, Amos G. Torsey, James Page; constable, George W. Mann: collector, Daniel Whitcher; treasurer, George W. Mann. The whole number of ballots cast for representative was 104. Necessary to a choice 53. Caleb Morse had 1, Enos Wells 1, Robert Coburn 3, Chase Whitcher 3, William Eastman 12, Jonathan Hunkings 26, and Daniel D. Page 58, and the latter was declared elected. For governor, Nathaniel B. Baker had 74, Ralph Metcalf 25, James Bell 2. Voted to raise for town charges \$350, for schools \$300, for highways \$350.

[1856.] March 11. Annual town meeting in district No 5 school house. Chose: moderator, Ira Whitcher; town clerk, Chase Whitcher; selectmen, James J. Page, George W. Mann, Bartlett Marston; highway surveyors, Silas M. Welch, Jonathan Stickney, Joseph Blake, Gilbert P. Wright, Ira Whitcher, Jeremiah B. Davis, Samuel Howe, Walter Mulliken, Nathaniel Stow; supt. school committee, James Page, Amos G. Torsey; constables, Jonathan Stickney, Daniel Whitcher. The whole number of votes cast for representative was 84. Necessary to a choice 43. Enos C. Wells had 1, Enos Wells 5, Jonathan Hunkings 16, Daniel D. Page 62, and Daniel D. Page was elected. The vote for governor was: John S. Wells 73, Ralph Metcalf 20.



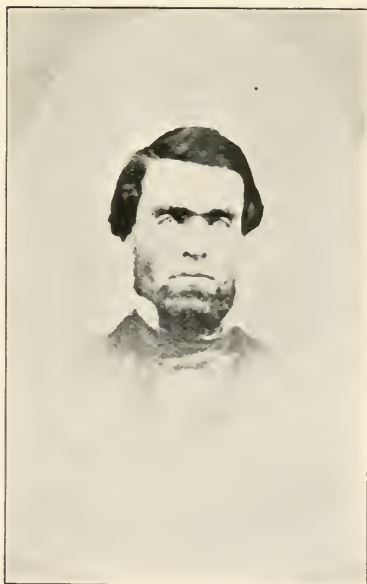
GILBERT P. WRIGHT.



BARTLETT MARSTON.



CHARLES C. TYLER.



SILAS M. WELCH.

Voted to raise for town charges \$600, for schools \$300, for highways \$400.

November 4. At the presidential election 85 votes were cast for the Democratic electoral ticket headed by Daniel Marcy, and 23 for the Republican ticket headed by W. H. H. Bailey.

[1857.] March 10. Annual town meeting in school house district No. 1. Chose: moderator, James J. Page; town clerk, George Wells; selectmen, James J. Page, Bartlett Marston, William T. Torsey; highway surveyors, Bartlett Welch, Nathan Blodgett, Joseph Blake, William T. Torsey, George W. Mann, David Clough, James A. Clark, Nathaniel Mulliken; supt. school committee, Caleb Wells, James Page; constables, George W. Mann, James B. Clark, William Smith; collector, James Norris. Amos G. Torsey, Jonathan Stickney, and William Davis were appointed liquor agents, on the condition that they should not run the town into debt, and that they should charge 20 per cent. profit upon each pint or quart sold and no more. The vote for representative was: whole number of votes 103; necessary to a choice 52; William Whitcher had 1; George Wells 1, James B. Clark 2, Chase Whitcher 2, Daniel Whitcher 35, George W. Mann 62, and George W. Mann was elected.

The issue in this election and also in the next three was that of "Bunga Road". There was for the time being a new alignment of factions over this issue, and Wellses, Pages, and Whitchers were for the time forgotten. The candidates for representatives in these four years each belonged to the Whitcher faction, and were brothers-in-law. There was warm politics. With less than 500 population a vote of 108 or 111 indicated that the voters were out. When the Bunga road controversy was settled, there was a profitable falling

off in the vote.

The vote for governor was : John S. Wells 80, William Haile 23.

Voted to raise for town charges \$600, schools \$300, highways \$400.

[1858.] March 9. Annual meeting at the 5th district school house. Chose : moderator, Ira Whitecher ; town clerk, George Wells ; selectmen, Ira Whitecher, William T. Torsey, Caleb Wells ; highway surveyors, James Harriman, Walter F. Pike, Roswell Hardy, Gilbert P. Wright, Ira Whitecher, David Clough, Charles M. Howe, W. Carlos Stowe, Nathaniel Mulliken ; constables, James Norris, Silas M. Welch ; collector, James Norris.

The whole number of votes cast for representative was 109. Necessary to a choice 55. Charles M. Howe had 1, James J. Page 1, George W. Mann 52, Daniel Whitecher 55, and Daniel Whitecher was declared elected. The vote for governor was : Asa P. Cate 92, William Haile 16. Voted to raise for town charges \$600, schools \$300, highways \$550.

[1859.] March 8. Annual meeting in 1st district school house. Chose : moderator, Ira Whitecher ; town clerk, James Norris ; selectmen, Ira Whitecher, Caleb Wells, Josiah F. Jeffers ; highway surveyors, Josiah F. Jeffers, Charles Carpenter, Roswell Cady, William T. Torsey, Ira Whitecher, Noah C. Hutchins, Benjamin H. Tyrrell, Samuel C. Annis ; constables, Ira Whitecher, Silas M. Welch ; supt. school committee, Walter F. Pike ; collector, Horace W. Gordon.

The whole number of ballots cast for representative was 108, necessary to a choice 55. Charles M. Howe had 1, George W. Mann 50, Daniel Whitecher 57, and Daniel Whitecher was elected.

In these close contests Charles M. Howe, a Republican, disgusted that his political brethren voted with one or the other Democratic faction according to personal friendship, or—substantial reward—voted regularly for himself as the only man in town whom he could trust.

The vote for governor was Asa P. Cate 94, Ichabod Goodwin 17.

Voted to raise for town charges \$600, schools \$300, highways, \$500.

[1860.] March 13. Meeting in 5th district school house. Chose: moderator, Daniel D. Page; town clerk, James Page; selectmen, Chase Whitcher, Jonathan Hunkings, Josiah F. Jeffers; highway surveyors, James M. Harriman, Moses P. Buswell, James J. Page, Gilbert P. Wright, James H. Keyser, Chase Whitcher, Benjamin H. Tyrell, Caleb Wells; tax collector, Caleb Wells; superintending school committee, James Page, Caleb Wells; constables, Elisha Hibbard, Jonathan B. Stickney; agent to manage town law suits, Ira Whitcher.

The whole number of ballots cast for representative was 103, necessary to a choice 52. John E. Keyser had 1, Caleb Wells 1, Jonathan Hunkings 16, Daniel D. Page 33, and George W. Mann 52, and George W. Mann was elected. For governor 83 votes were cast for Asa P. Cate and 20 for Ichabod Goodwin.

Voted to raise for town charges \$600, for schools \$300, highways \$700.

November 6. At the presidential election the Douglas Democratic electoral ticket headed by Henry P. Rolfe received 55 votes, the Breckinridge Democratic headed by Abner Greenleaf 7, and the Republican ticket headed by John Sullivan 18.

[1861.] March 12. Meeting in district No. 1 school house. Chose: moderator, Daniel D. Page; town clerk, James Page; selectmen, Chase Whitcher, Jonathan Hunkings, Bartlett Welch; highway surveyors, Silas M. Welch, Jonathan Stickney, John Savage, Gilbert P. Wright, Chase Whitcher, David Clough, Daniel M. Howe, David Bowman, Caleb Wells; superintending school committee, Caleb Wells, with remuneration at 1 1-2 per cent.; agent to manage law suits, Ira Whitcher.

The whole number of votes cast for representative was 72. Necessary to a choice 37. William T. Torsey had 2, Jonathan Hunkings 19, James Page 51, and James Page was elected. The vote for governor was: George Stark 82, N. S. Berry 21.

Voted to raise for town charges and support of poor \$500, schools \$300, highways \$150 in money and \$300 to be expended in labor at 10 cents an hour.

[1862.] March 11. Meeting held in district No. 5. Chose: moderator, Ira Whitcher; town clerk, Amos Whitcher; selectmen, Chase Whitcher, Bartlett Welch, William T. Torsey; highway surveyors, Bartlett Welch, Moses P. Buswell, George Corliss, S. Emery Marston, Chase Whitcher, Israel Flanders, James H. Keyser, Charles Gifford, George Wells; superintending school committee, George W. Mann; collector, Caleb Wells with compensation at 2 per cent.; to manage law suits, Ira Whitcher.

Three ballots were had for representative. First, whole number of votes cast 86, necessary to a choice 44. Ira Whitcher had 1, Daniel D. Page 4, William C. Bixby 18, Caleb Wells 22, James Page 39. Second, whole number of votes 88, necessary to a choice 45. George W. Mann had 1, Ira Whitcher 2, Daniel D. Page 2, William C. Bixby

22, Caleb Wells 21, James Page 40. Third, whole number of votes cast 87, necessary to a choice 44. George W. Mann had 2, William C. Bixby 19, Caleb Wells 22, and James Page 44, who was declared elected. The vote for governor was: George Stark 74, Nathaniel S. Berry 18.

Voted to raise for town charges and town debt \$600, schools \$300, highways \$400 in labor and \$100 in money to be expended by the selectmen.

Three special town meetings were held in the autumn of the year which will be noted in a later chapter.

[1863.] March 10. Annual meeting in the school house in district No. 1. Chose: moderator, Daniel D. Page; town clerk, Amos Whitcher; selectmen, Caleb Wells, William T. Torsey, James Page; highway surveyors, James M. Harriman, Ashael L. Warren, John Savage, Gilbert P. Wright, Prescott Parker, Jr., Lafayette W. Flanders, James H. Keyser, Alden Hurlbert, George Wells; collector, Caleb Wells; to manage town law suits, Ira Whitcher.

Five ballots were taken for representative. First, whole number of ballots 89, necessary to a choice 45. Daniel D. Page had 1, Charles M. Howe 1, Caleb Wells 12, William C. Bixby 12, Ira Whitcher 27, Chase Whitcher 36. Second, whole number of ballots 90, necessary to a choice 46. William C. Bixby had 7, Caleb Wells 11, Ira Whitcher 35, Chase Whitcher 37. Third, whole number of ballots 90, necessary to a choice 46. Caleb Wells had 2, W. C. Bixby 7, Chase Whitcher 40, Ira Whitcher 41. Fourth, whole number of ballots 90, necessary to a choice 46. Caleb Wells had 1, Nathan Blodgett 2, W. C. Bixby 3, Chase Whitcher 40, Ira Whitcher 44. Fifth, whole number of ballots 92, necessary to a choice 47. Chase Whitcher had 1, William T. Torsey 1, Amos Whitcher 1, Caleb Wells 1, W. C. Bix-

by 7, Daniel D. Page 33, Ira Whitcher 48, and Ira Whitcher was declared elected. The vote for governor was Ira A. Eastman 82, Joseph A. Gilmore 10.

Voted to raise for debt and town charges \$800, schools \$300, highways \$400 to be paid in labor and \$100 in money to be expended by the selectmen.

[1864.] March 10. Meeting held in school house No. 5. Chose: moderator, Ira Whitcher; town clerk, Charles H. Whitcher; selectmen, Caleb Wells, James Page, Charles B. Keyser; highway surveyors, Charles Jacobs, Nathan Blodgett, T. Prescott Blake, George Wells, Amos Wilson, Thomas F. Cox, William T. Torsey, Thomas H. Hunkings, Alden E. Hurlbert; constables, George Wilson, Ashael L. Warren; superintending school committee, Caleb Wells; tax collector, Caleb Wells; agent to manage town law suits, Ira Whitcher.

There were two ballots for representative. First, whole number of votes 83, necessary to a choice 42. Charles B. Keyser had 1, Daniel D. Page 1, Caleb Wells 8, Ashael L. Warren 9, Chase Whitcher 25, Ira Whitcher 39. Second, whole number 81, necessary to a choice 41. Nathan Blodgett had 1, Charles B. Keyser 1, Caleb Wells 8, Ashael L. Warren 9, Chase Whitcher 20, Ira Whitcher 42, and Ira Whitcher was declared elected.

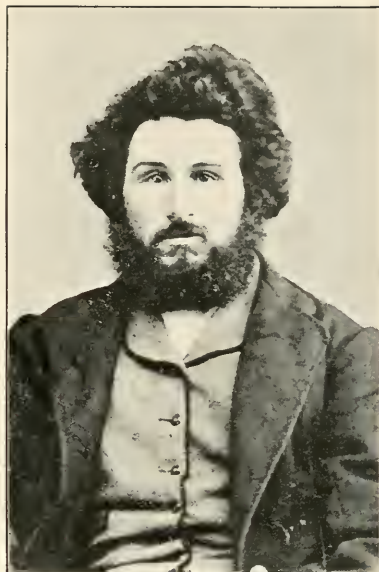
The vote for governor was: E. W. Harrington 76, Joseph A. Gilmore 12.

Voted to raise for town charges \$700, schools \$300, highways \$500, of which \$100 was to be expended by the selectmen. Action was also taken in regard to draft which will be noted in another chapter.

November 8. The vote for presidential electors was: Democratic 84, Republican 12.



CALEB WELLS.



JAMES PAGE.



WILLIAM T. TORSEY.



CHARLES B. KEYSER.

[1865.] March 9. Meeting held in school house district No. 1. Chose: moderator, George W. Mann; town clerk, Charles H. Whiteher; selectmen, Caleb Wells, Charles B. Keyser, Ira Whiteher; highway surveyors, Josiah F. Jeffers, Moses P. Buswell, James Page, Thomas F. Cox, Prescott Parker, Jr., Moses Clough, George Mulliken, John Harris; superintending school committee, Caleb Wells; collector, William T. Torsey.

There were two ballots for representative. First, whole number of votes 76, necessary to a choice 39. Scattering 4, Nathan Blodgett 10, Caleb Wells 25, Chase Whiteher 37. Second, whole number of votes 75, necessary for a choice 38. Nathan Blodgett had 9, Caleb Wells 24, Chase Whiteher 41, and Chase Whiteher was declared elected. There is no record of the governor vote.

Voted to raise for town charges and town debt \$1400, school \$400, for highways \$100 in money to be expended by the selectmen and \$500 in labor at 15 cents an hour.

Voted to discontinue that part of the Whiteher brook road laid out by the selectmen of Landaff and Benton, which lies in the town of Benton. This action was subsequently declared to be illegal and the road was continued open.

[1866.] March 8. Meeting in school house, district No. 5. Chose: moderator, George W. Mann; town clerk, Charles H. Whiteher; selectmen, George W. Mann, Daniel D. Page, George Wells; highway surveyors, Josiah F. Jeffers, Ashael L. Warren, James Page, S. Emery Marston, Francis Dwyer, L. W. Flanders, Samuel Howe, George W. Bemis, John E. Oakes; superintending school committee, George W. Mann, Caleb Wells; collector, Bartlett Marston.

For representative the whole number of votes was 77,

necessary to a choice 39. William T. Torsey had 2, William C. Bixby 8, Caleb Wells 15, Chase Whitcher 52, and Chase Whitcher was declared elected. The governor vote was : John G. Sinclair 77, Frederick Smyth 13.

[1867.] March 12. Meeting in district No. 1 school house. Chose : moderator, Ira Whitcher ; town clerk, Charles H. Whitcher ; selectmen, Ira Whitcher, Daniel D. Page, Chase Whitcher ; highway surveyors, William C. Bixby, Ezra C. Winchester, James Page, Gilbert P. Wright, Samuel A. Mann, Joseph Hutchins, Richard C. Drown, Daniel M. Howe, John E. Oakes ; collector, Bartlett Marston.

For representative ; whole number of votes cast 80, necessary to a choice 41 ; Daniel D. Page had 10, Samuel Howe had 14, Caleb Wells 56, and Caleb Wells was declared elected.

For governor John G. Sinclair had 78, Walter Harriman 12.

Voted to raise for town charges and debt \$1000, schools \$500, highways \$700, labor to be at 12 1-2 cents per hour.

[1868.] March 10. Annual meeting in vestry of Union meeting house. Chose : moderator, Ira Whitcher ; town clerk, Charles H. Whitcher ; selectmen, Ira Whitcher, Chase Whitcher, James Page ; highway surveyors, James M. Copp, John H. True, S. W. Elliott, Jeremiah A. Clark, Winthrop C. Whitcher, William T. Torsey, Charles B. Keyser, Charles Collins, Arthur Wilson ; supt. school committee, George W. Mann, James Page ; collector, Winthrop C. Whitcher ; representative on first ballot without contest, Caleb Wells.

Voted to raise for town charges and poor \$600, schools \$500, highways \$600 in labor at 15 cents per hour, and \$100 in money to be expended by the selectmen.

November 3. At the presidential election, the Democratic electoral ticket headed by John S. Buswell received 70 votes, the Republican headed by Amos Paul, 9.

[1869.] March 9. Meeting in vestry of Union meeting house. Chose: moderator, Ira Whitcher; town clerk, James H. Keyser; selectmen, James Page, John H. True, Ira Whitcher; highway surveyors, John L. Stevens, John Crimmings, Joshua Page, Stephen T. Marston, Amos Whitcher, Merrill Clough, Charles B. Keyser, Alden E. Hurlbert, Jeremiah A. Clark; superintending school committee, George W. Mann, James Page; collector, Joshua Page. For representative, the whole number of votes was 72, necessary to a choice 37; George W. Mann had 1, Charles B. Keyser 1, John H. True 2, Daniel D. Page 13, William T. Torsey 23, Chase Whitcher 42, and Chase Whitcher was elected.

For governor, John Bedel, dem., 72; Onslow Stearns, rep., 20.

Voted to raise for town expenses and debt \$1500, schools \$500, highways \$700 in labor at 15 cents per hour.

[1870.] March 8. Meeting in vestry of Union meeting house. Chose: moderator, Ira Whitcher; town clerk, James H. Keyser; selectmen, Chase Whitcher, John H. True, Ira Whitcher (John H. True subsequently resigned and James Page was appointed to fill vacancy); highway surveyors, John L. Stevens, E. M. True, Alvin Blake, Hazen Chamberlin, Samuel C. Annis, William T. Torsey, James G. Ramsdell, Alden E. Hurlbert, Jeremiah A. Clark.

For representative, the whole number of votes cast was 82, necessary to a choice 42; James Page had 1, James H. Keyser 1, William T. Torsey 3, Daniel D. Page 6, James E. Whitcher 6, Jeremiah B. Davis 7, Chase Whitcher 53,

and Chase Whitcher was declared elected.

For governor, John Bedel, dem., 67; Onslow Stearns, rep., 19; Samuel Flint, labor reform, 4.

Voted to raise for town charges and debt \$1000, schools \$500, highways \$800 in labor and \$100 in money.

[1871.] March 14. Annual town meeting in vestry of Union meeting house. Chose: moderator, Chase Whitcher; town clerk, Charles H. Whitcher; selectmen, Chase Whitcher, Asahel L. Warren, William T. Torsey; highway surveyors, Benjamin H. Tyrell, Asahel L. Warren, James Page, Bartlett Marston, Samuel C. Annis, William T. Torsey, Willard W. Coburn, Alden E. Hurlbert, S. H. Chamberlin; superintending school committee, M. W. True; collector, Charles C. Tyler; treasurer, Chase Whitcher.

For representative, the whole number of votes cast was 81, necessary to a choice 41. William T. Torsey had 1, Ellery P. Cowan 11, James H. Keyser 20, Edward F. Mann 49, and Edward F. Mann was declared elected.

For governor, James A. Weston 63, James Pike 21.

Voted to raise for town charges \$1000, highways \$800, schools \$500.

James Page was chosen agent to defend law suits against the town.

[1872.] March 12. Meeting in vestry of Union meeting house. Chose: moderator, Chase Whitcher; town clerk, Charles H. Whitcher; selectmen, Chase Whitcher, Asahel L. Warren, William T. Torsey; highway surveyors, David L. Wright, A. L. Warren, Pardon W. Allen, S. E. Marston, Samuel C. Annis, W. T. Torsey, Willard W. Coburn, Samuel Howe, Jeremiah A. Clark; superintending school committee, Charles H. Whitcher, Moses W. True; collector, James Norris.

[May 27. George W Mann appointed town clerk on removal from town of Charles H. Whitcher; Edward F. Mann appointed superintending school committee.]

The whole number of votes for representative was 88, necessary to a choice 45. Charles H. Whitcher had 1, Richard C. Drown 1, James E. Whitcher 4, Edward F. Mann 82, and Edward F. Mann was declared elected. Such unanimity never occurred in Benton before, and — it has never occurred since.

The vote for governor was James A. Weston 84, Ezekiel A. Straw 20.

Voted to raise for town charges \$800, schools \$500, highways \$900.

November. At the presidential election, the vote for the Democratic electors, headed by William P. Wheeler, was 66; for the Republican, headed by Lyman D. Stevens, 15.

[1873.] March 11. Annual meeting in vestry of the Union meeting house. Chose: moderator, Daniel D. Page, town clerk, James H. Keyser; selectmen, James Page, Prescott Parker, Willard W. Coburn; highway surveyors, David L. Wright, John Crimmings, James Page, Gilbert P. Wright, Spafford W. Cowan, John Flanders, James H. Keyser, Samuel Howe, Nathaniel Clark; superintending school committee, James Page; collector, Prescott Parker; treasurer, James Page.

For representative, the whole number of votes was 72, necessary to a choice 37. David L. Wright had 1, Edward F. Mann 30, Daniel D. Page 38, and Daniel D. Page was elected. For governor, James A. Weston had 60; Ezekiel A. Straw 14.

Voted to raise for town charges \$900, schools \$500, highways \$1000 to be expended in labor at 15 cents per hour.

[1874.] March 10. Meeting in vestry of meeting house. Chose: moderator, Daniel D. Page; town clerk, James H. Keyser; selectmen, James Page, Prescott Parker, Gilbert P. Wright; highway surveyors, Ezra C. Winchester, William Tibbetts, James Page, Alonzo Spooner, Spafford W. Cowan, Gilbert P. Wright, Jr., Alden E. Hurlbutt, James H. Keyser, Frank Clark; school committee, James Page; collector, James Norris; treasurer, James Page. Daniel D. Page was elected representative. The vote for governor was: James A. Weston 65; Luther McCutcheon 14.

Voted to raise for town charges etc., \$1000, schools \$600, highways \$1000, 15 cents per hour to be allowed for labor.

[1875.] March 9. Meeting held in vestry of the meeting house. Chose: moderator, Daniel D. Page; town clerk, Amos Whitcher; selectmen, Charles E. True, James H. Keyser, James Page; school committee, James Page; collector, James Norris; treasurer, James Page. Voted that highway surveyors be appointed by the selectmen.

The whole number of votes cast for representative was 90, necessary to a choice 46. Asahel L. Warren had 2, William T. Torsey 38, George W. Mann 50, and George W. Mann was declared elected. The vote for governor was: Hiram R. Roberts 80, Person C. Cheney 20. Voted to raise for town charges, etc., \$1000, schools \$500, highways \$1000 labor to be paid 15 cents per hour.

[1876.] March 14. Meeting held in vestry of the meeting house. Chose: moderator, Daniel D. Page; town clerk, Amos Whitcher; selectmen, Charles E. True, James H. Keyser, James Page; highway surveyors, Benjamin H. Tyrell, Asahel L. Warren, James Page, Alonzo Spooner, Pardon W. Allen, William T. Torsey, Peter Howe, Charles B. Keyser, Lyman Bemis, Jr.

The whole number of ballots cast for representative was 69, necessary to a choice 35. There were scattering 4. Prescott Parker had 2, James Page had 13, George W. Mann 50, and George W. Mann was declared elected.

The vote for governor was : George D. Marcy 67 ; Person C. Cheney 14.

Voted to raise for town charges and debt \$1000, schools \$500, highways \$800, labor to be paid 15 cents per hour.

November 7. At the presidential election, the Tilden electors received 60 votes, the Hayes electors 16.

For delegate to the constitutional convention 61 votes were cast. James H. Keyser received 1, Prescott Parker 1, James Page 2, Daniel D. Page 4, Samuel Howe 17, and George W. Mann 36, and George W. Mann was elected.

[1877.] March 13. Meeting held in vestry of the meeting house. Chose : moderator, Daniel D. Page ; town clerk, Pardon W. Allen ; selectmen, Charles B. Keyser, Moses W. True, William W. Eastman ; highway surveyors, B. H. Tyrell, Joshua Page, Alonzo Spooner, Edward L. Cox, Ephraim Cooley, Kendrick Howe, James H. Keyser, Lyman Bemis, Jr. ; collector, James Norris.

For representative whole number of votes cast 69, necessary to a choice 36. George W. Mann had 1, Pardon W. Allen 1, William T. Torsey 20, Prescott Parker 47, and Prescott Parker was declared elected. The vote for governor was : George D. Marcy 70, Benjamin F. Prescott 18.

Voted to raise for town charges \$600, schools \$400, highways \$600, labor to be paid 15 cents per hour.

[1878.] March 12. Meeting held in vestry of meeting house. Chose : moderator, George W. Mann ; town clerk, Pardon W. Allen ; selectmen, George W. Mann, William W. Eastman, Moses W. True ; superintending school com-

mittee, Frederick S. Howe; highway surveyors, B. H. Tyrell, A. L. Warren, William B. Page, Eben T. Hardy, W. W. Eastman, Darius D. Davis, Kendrick S. Howe, Charles B. Keyser, Nathaniel Clark; auditors, A. L. Warren, W. T. Torsey; collector, Orman L. Mann.

The whole number of votes for representative was 74, necessary to a choice 38. George W. Mann had 1, William T. Torsey 28, Prescott Parker 45, and Prescott Parker was declared elected.

For governor Frank A. McKean had 69, Benjamin F. Prescott 15.

Voted to raise for town charges, \$700, schools \$400, highways \$600, labor to be paid 15 cents per hour.

Nov. 5. The first biennial election for choice of state officers was held. Edward F. Mann was chosen moderator. The vote for governor was: Frank A. McKean 53, W. G. Brown 14, Natt Head 6. Chose: William T. Torsey, Benjamin H. Tyrell, James H. Keyser supervisors of check list.

[1879.] March 11. Annual town meeting. Chose: moderator, Edward F. Mann; town clerk, Pardon W. Allen; selectmen, Moses W. True, Charles B. Keyser, Prescott Parker; highway surveyors, B. H. Tyrell, A. L. Warren, S. Elliott, Curtis Chamberlin, W. W. Eastman, William T. Torsey, Kendrick L. Howe, Charles B. Keyser, Nathaniel Clark; treasurer, Amos Whitcher (on his removal from town James H. Keyser was appointed); superintending school committee, Moses W. True (on his removal from town Pardon W. Allen was appointed); collector, Orman L. Mann.

Voted to raise for town charges \$600, schools \$400, highways \$700. Tax was levied to pay the school house in-

debtedness in districts No. 4 and 5.

[1880.] March 9. Annual town meeting. Chose : moderator, Edward F. Mann ; town clerk, James H. Keyser ; selectmen, George W. Mann, Eben T. Hardy, Edward M. True ; highway surveyors, B. H. Tyrell, William Tibbetts, W. H. Morrill, Cutler Chamberlin, Nathan D. Hutchins, Merrill Clough, Fred S. Howe, Nathaniel Clark, W. W. Eastman ; treasurer, C. A. Veazey ; collector O. L. Mann ; appraisers, Ashael L. Warren, O. L. Mann, Daniel M. Howe.

Voted to raise for town charges \$500 ; town debt \$500, schools \$400, highways \$450, with labor at 15 cents per hour.

Nov. 2. Biennial election. Chose : moderator, Edward F. Mann ; supervisors of check list, Pardon W. Allen, Benjamin H. Tyrell, Daniel M. Howe.

The whole number of ballots for representative was 63, necessary to a choice 32. Thomas E. Taylor had 3, William T. Torsey 7, James H. Keyser 15, George W. Mann 38, and George W. Mann was elected.

The vote for governor was : Frank Jones 66, Charles H. Bell 12, Warren G. Brown 6. For presidential electors the Democratic candidates received 66, the Republican 12, Greenback 6.

[1881.] March 8. Annual town meeting. Chose : moderator, P. W. Allen ; town clerk, Edward L. Cox ; selectmen, George W. Mann, Eben T. Hardy, Edward M. True ; highway surveyors, William Tibbetts, W. H. Morrill, Lyman Bemis, Solomon J. Hutchins, W. W. Eastman, Daniel M. Howe, Birt Cox, Merrill Clough.

Voted to raise for town charges and debt \$1000, schools \$350, highways \$500 to be expended as selectmen see fit.

[1882.] March 14. Annual town meeting. Chose :

moderator, James H. Keyser ; town clerk, Edward L. Cox ; selectmen, William W. Eastman, James H. Keyser, Lebina H. Parker ; highway surveyors, B. H. Tyrell, Norman Martin, Albert Morrill, Eben T. Hardy, E. L. Cox, Alonzo Spooner, Charles P. Collins, Sylvester Wheeler, Merrill Clough ; superintending school committee, Paul M. Howe.

Voted to raise for town charges and debt \$1000, schools \$300, highways \$400.

March 7. Biennial election. Chose : moderator, Pardon W. Allen ; supervisors of check list, P. W. Allen, Ransom Coburn, Charles A. Veazey.

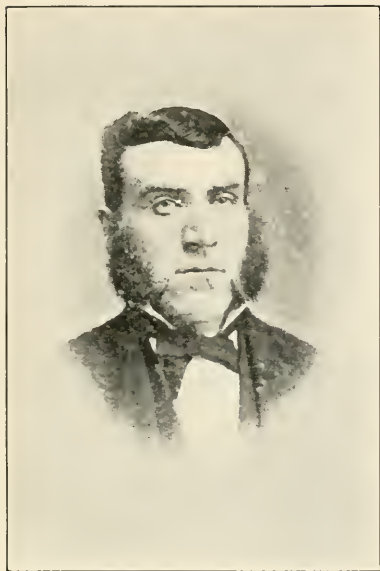
The whole number of ballots cast for representative was 70. Ashael L. Warren had 5, James H. Keyser 26, George W. Mann 39, and George W. Mann was elected. For governor Martin V. B. Edgerly had 58, Samuel W. Hale 18.

[1883.] March 13. Annual town meeting. Chose : moderator, Pardon W. Allen ; town clerk, P. W. Allen ; selectmen, W. W. Eastman, J. H. Keyser, Lebina H. Parker ; auditors, Charles A. Veazey, O. L. Mann, D. M. Howe ; superintending school committee, Paul M. Howe.

Voted to raise for town charges and debt \$1000, schools \$400, highways \$600 to be paid in labor at 15 cents per hour.

[1884.] March 12. Annual town meeting. Chose : moderator, Daniel M. Howe ; town clerk, P. W. Allen ; selectmen, William W. Eastman, Daniel M. Howe, Lebina H. Parker ; highway surveyors, Edgar S. Welch, Frank Hardy, Alfred Morrill, Albert Lindsay, L. H. Parker, Horace R. Spooner, Halsey R. Howe, Ransom Coburn, Nathaniel Clark ; superintending school committee, Pardon W. Allen ; collector, Edgar S. Welch.

Voted to raise for town expenses and indebtedness \$1200,



GEORGE H. CLARK.



ORMAN L. MANN.



REV. GEORGE E. BROWN.



CHARLES A. VEAZEY.

schools \$400, highways \$400, with labor at 15 cents per hour.

November 4. Presidential and biennial election. Chose : moderator, Pardon W. Allen ; supervisors of check list, Orman L. Mann, Geo. H. Clark, C. A. Veazey. (There is no record of the vote for governor and presidential electors.)

[1885.] March 12. Annual town meeting. Chose : moderator, Pardon W. Allen ; town clerk, Pardon W. Allen ; selectmen, W. W. Eastman, Daniel M. Howe, L. H. Parker ; school committee, P. W. Allen ; highway surveyors, E. S. Welch, John Russell, Jr., Eben Morrill, Leman S. Keyser, S. H. Chamberlin, W. T. Torsey, Halsey R. Howe, Fred M. Tyler, Nathaniel Clark.

Voted to raise for town expenses \$500, schools \$400, highways \$600 in labor at 15 cents per hour.

[1886.] March 11. Annual town meeting. Chose : moderator, P. W. Allen ; town clerk, David F. Richardson ; selectmen, Lebina H. Parker, David F. Richardson, James H. Keyser ; auditors, O. L. Mann, W. W. Eastman, Paul M. Howe. Voted that the highway commissioners be appointed by the selectmen.

Voted to raise for town charges \$400, schools \$400, highways \$600, labor to be paid at 15 cents per hour.

November 2. Biennial election. Chose : moderator, S. H. Chamberlin ; supervisors of check list, Orman L. Mann, George H. Clark, Paul M. Howe.

The representative contest this year was an animated one. The Republicans were united and stood by their candidate, leaving the Democratic factions to fight it out among themselves. Seven ballots were necessary to elect. S. H. Chamberlin was the republican candidate, and the Democratic aspirants were several. The ballots were as follows :

First, whole number of votes 53 ; James H. Keyser had 1, William T. Torsey 1, William W. Eastman 5, Lebina H. Parker 10, George W. Mann 17, S. H. Chamberlin 19. Second, W. W. Eastman 1, Prescott Parker 1, W. T. Torsey 1, L. H. Parker 9, S. H. Chamberlin 20, G. W. Mann 21. Third, J. H. Keyser 1, W. T. Torsey 1, Orman L. Mann 2, L. H. Parker 11, S. H. Chamberlin 20, G. W. Mann 21. Fourth, W. T. Torsey 1, Charles A. Veazey 1, William B. Page 3, L. H. Parker 10, S. H. Chamberlin 20, G. W. Mann 21. Fifth, David F. Richardson 1, W. B. Page 2, L. H. Parker 12, G. W. Mann 19, S. H. Chamberlin 22. Sixth, G. W. Mann 1, D. F. Richardson 5, S. H. Chamberlin 25, L. H. Parker 30. Seventh, whole number of votes 58, necessary to a choice 30, D. F. Richardson 1, S. H. Chamberlin 22, Lebina H. Parker 35, and Lebina H. Parker was declared elected.

The vote for governor was : Thomas Cogswell, dem., 37 ; Charles H. Sawyer, rep., 18 ; Joseph Wentworth, green-back, 6.

[1887.] March 10. Annual town meeting. Chose : moderator, Moses B. Mann ; town clerk, David F. Richardson ; selectmen, Lebina H. Parker, David F. Richardson, Moses B. Mann ; auditors, O. L. Mann, W. W. Eastman, P. M. Howe ; fish and game wardens, D. F. Richardson, Daniel M. Howe. Voted that road commissioners be appointed by the selectmen.

Voted to raise for town charges \$400, schools \$400, highways \$600.

Voted that the North and South road be discontinued.

[1888.] March 8. Annual town meeting. Chose : moderator, George W. Mann ; town clerk, David F. Richardson ; selectmen, L. H. Parker, D. F. Richardson, Edgar

S. Welch ; fish and game wardens, D. F. Richardson, D. M. Howe ; constables, W. W. Eastman, D. F. Richardson.

Voted to raise for town charges \$400, schools \$400, highways \$600, for town debt \$1200.

Nov. 6. Biennial and presidential election. Chose : moderator, Moses B. Mann ; supervisor of check lists, Orman L. Mann, Horace R. Spooner, Norman J. Page.

The vote for governor was democratic, 46 ; republican 17, prohibition 3, and the same party vote was given for presidential electors.

Two ballots were had for delegate to constitutional convention : 1st, whole number of votes 48, necessary to action 25, Moses B. Mann had 1, Norman J. Page 3, Paul M. Howe 12, George W. Mann 12, William W. Eastman, 20 ; 2d, whole number of votes 54, necessary to a choice 28 ; M. B. Mann had 1, N. J. Page 5, G. W. Mann 7, P. M. Howe 13 and Wm. W. Eastman 28, and Wm. W. Eastman was declared elected.

[1889.] March 14. Annual town meeting held in the hall in "the Hollow," which later was purchased by the town and became the town hall. Chose : moderator, Moses B. Mann ; town clerk, D. F. Richardson ; selectmen, L. H. Parker, D. F. Richardson, Edgar S. Welch ; auditors, Alfred Morrill, George H. Clark, Paul M. Howe ; road commissioners, William Tibbitts, Franklin Hill, George H. Clark, Clarence Spooner, Charles B. Keyser.

Voted to raise for town charges \$400, schools \$400, highways \$600, with labor at 15 cents per hour.

[1890.] March 13. Annual meeting in town hall. Chose : moderator, George W. Mann, (declined to serve) then chose Norman J. Page ; town clerk, D. F. Richardson ; selectmen, L. H. Parker, Norman J. Page, W. Sims

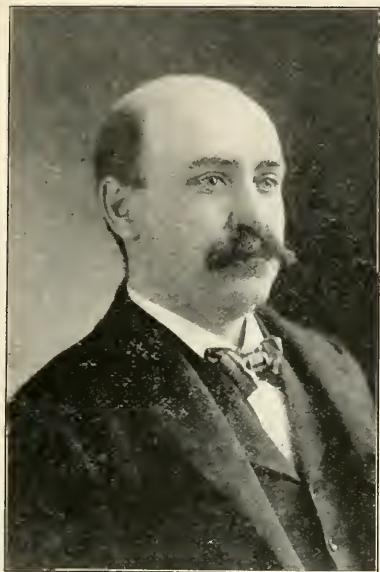
Nutter; road commissioners, James M. Harriman, John Crimmings, Norman J. Page, Horace R. Spooner, Alonzo Spooner, Fred M. Tyler.

Voted to raise for town charges, \$300, (the town was at last out of debt,) schools \$400, highways \$600.

November 4. Biennial election. Chose: moderator, Norman J. Page; for governor, Charles H. Amsden, dem. had 38, Hiram A. Tuttle, rep. 17, A. S. Fletcher, pro. 3. This was a warm election for Benton. For supervisors of check list, Daniel M. Howe and W. F. Bean were elected on the first ballot. Horace R. Spooner was elected on the fourth, but declined to serve, and Frank A. Moulton was elected on the sixth ballot. It took nine ballots to elect a representative. Paul M. Howe was the Republican candidate, while the Democrats had two, Lebina H. Parker and David F. Richardson. The Republicans however did not give their candidate full support. The highest vote he received was 12, and on one ballot he fell as low as 5. The first ballot stood whole number of votes 46. M. B. Mann had 1, P. M. Howe 10, L. H. Parker 15, David F. Richardson 20. The fifth ballot gave P. M. Howe 8, L. H. Parker 20, D. F. Richardson 25. The eighth gave P. M. Howe 8, L. H. Parker 19, D. F. Richardson 26. On the ninth P. M. Howe had 7, L. H. Parker 7, and D. F. Richardson 32, and D. F. Richardson was declared elected.

[1891.] March 12. Annual town meeting. Chose: moderator, George W. Mann; town clerk, D. F. Richardson; selectmen, W. W. Eastman, W. S. Nutter, James M. Harriman; auditors, Paul M. Howe, William B. Page. Voted that road commissioners be appointed by the selectmen.

Voted to raise for town expenses \$400, schools \$400,



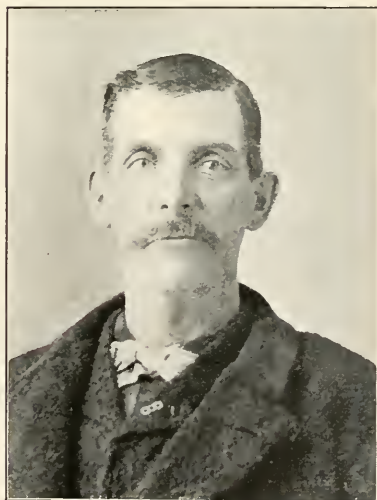
MOSES B. MANN.



PAUL M. HOWE.



NORMAN J. PAGE.



A. ELMORE TYLER.

highways \$600.

[1892.] March 10. Annual town meeting. Chose : moderator, George W. Mann ; town clerk, William W. Eastman ; selectmen, W. S. Nutter, W. W. Eastman, W. B. Page.

Voted to raise for town expenses \$400, schools \$400, highways \$600.

November 8. Biennial and presidential election. Chose : moderator for two years, William B. Page ; supervisors of check list, Orman L. Mann, L. H. Parker, Chas. A. Veazey.

For governor, McKinney, dem. had 32 votes, Smith, rep. 14, Carr, pro. 2. The Democratic candidates for electors received 32 votes, Republican 18, Prohibition 1.

[1893.] March 9. Annual meeting. Chose : town clerk, W. W. Eastman ; selectmen, L. H. Parker, James M. Harriman, Paul M. Howe ; road agent, James H. Keyser. W. W. Eastman was first chosen, but declined to serve.

Voted to raise for town charges \$400, schools \$400, highways \$600, town library \$15.

[1894.] March 8. Annual meeting. Chose : town clerk, William W. Eastman ; selectmen, L. H. Parker, J. M. Harriman, Paul M. Howe ; road agent, W. W. Eastman.

Voted to raise for town charges \$400, schools \$200, highways \$600, for purchase of road machine \$100, for town library \$15.

November. Biennial election. Chose : moderator for two years, George W. Mann ; supervisors of check list, O. L. Mann, Fred M. Tyler, Chas. A. Veazey.

The vote for governor was : Henry O. Kent, dem., 29 ; Chas. A. Bussel, rep., 15 ; D. C. Knowles, pro., 2.

[1895.] March 14. Annual town meeting at town hall. Chose : town clerk, W. W. Eastman ; selectmen, L. H. Parker, J. M. Harriman, P. M. Howe ; road agent, W. Sims Nutter.

Voted to raise for town charges \$500, schools \$300, highways \$400, town library \$15.

[1896.] March 12. Annual town meeting in town hall. Chose : town clerk W. W. Eastman ; selectmen, William Kendall (declined), L. H. Parker, Geo. H. Clark, W. J. Hardy ; road agent, W. Sims Nutter ; library trustee, P. M. Howe.

Voted to raise for town charges \$400, schools \$300, highways \$600.

November 3. Biennial and presidential election. Chose : moderator for two years, Norman J. Page ; supervisors of check list, Orman L. Mann, Fred M. Tyler, Harry H. Eliott.

For representative, whole number of votes cast 53. Necessary to a choice 27 : Orman L. Mann, dem., 24 ; William Kendall, rep., 29, and William Kendall was declared elected.

The vote for governor was : Kent, dem., 25 : Ramsdell, rep., 23 ; Barnard, national, 1. For presidential electors ; Democrat, 21 ; Republican, 29 ; National, 2.

[1897.] March 11. Annual town meeting. Chose : moderator, William D. Veazey, in absence of Norman J. Page ; town clerk, W. W. Eastman ; selectmen, L. H. Parker, Geo. H. Clark, Fred M. Tyler. Eight ballots were had for road agent, W. Sims Nutter being elected. Thereupon W. W. Eastman resigned as town clerk. The selectmen appointed James H. Keyser in his place, and then the meeting proceeded to further business. It was a particularly "hot time". Chose : library trustees, Geo. H. Clark, Byron

M. Tyler.

Voted to raise for town expenses \$300, schools \$400, highways \$600.

[1898.] March 10. Annual town meeting at town hall. Chose : moderator, George W. Mann in absence of N. J. Page ; town clerk, James H. Keyser ; selectmen, L. H. Parker, Geo. H. Clark, Albert W. Morrill ; road agent, Orman L. Mann, on the 7th ballot. The office of road agent had become quite an important one, in fact, so far as emoluments were concerned, the most important in town.

Voted to raise for town expenses \$350, schools \$400, highways \$600.

November. Biennial election. Chose : moderator, George W. Mann ; supervisors of check list, Orman L. Mann, Solomon J. Hutchins, William I. Eastman.

The vote for governor was : Stone, dem., 27 ; Rollins, rep., 13 ; Stevens, pro., 2.

[1899.] March 9. Annual town meeting in town hall. Chose : town clerk, J. H. Keyser ; selectmen, L. H. Parker, Geo. H. Clark, (declined,) Albert W. Morrill, W. W. Eastman ; road agent, Orman L. Mann, DeElden Tibbetts.

Voted to raise for town charges \$350, schools \$300, highways \$600.

[1900.] March 8. Annual town meeting in town hall. Chose : town clerk, W. W. Eastman ; selectmen, Lebina H. Parker, John S Rogers, William W. Eastman ; road agents, Orman L. Mann, DeElden Tibbetts.

Voted to raise for town charges \$300, schools \$400, highways \$800.

November Biennial and presidential election. Chose : moderator, in absence of George W. Mann, L. H. Parker ; supervisors of check list, Orman L. Mann, Solomon J. Hut-

chins, Ervin A. Marden ; Moderator, for two years, Lebina H. Parker.

The vote for governor was : Potter, dem., 21 ; Jordan, rep., 29 ; for presidential electors Dem., 28, Rep., 22, Prohibition 1.

[1901.] March 14. Annual town meeting in town hall. Chose : town clerk, W. W. Eastman ; selectmen, Lebina H. Parker, William Kendall, John S. Rogers ; road agents, Orman L. Mann, James Crimmings.

Voted to raise for town charges \$600, schools \$300, highways, \$600, town library \$15.

[1902.] March 13. Annual meeting in town hall. Chose : town clerk, W. W. Eastman ; selectmen, L. H. Parker, William Kendall, Geo. H. Clark ; road agent, O. L. Mann, DeElden Tibbets.

Voted to raise for town charges \$400, schools \$200 above the amount required by law, highways \$600, Memorial day \$10. Orman L. Mann declined to serve as road agent and W. W. Eastman was chosen in his place. W. W. Eastman was also chosen tax collector.

November. Biennial election. Chose : moderator for two years, L. H. Parker ; supervisors of check list, Orman L. Mann, dem., W. F. Fackney, rep., Byron M. Tyler, rep. ; delegate to constitutional convention, L. H. Parker.

The vote for governor was : Hollis, dem., 18 ; Bachelder, rep., 18 ; Elliott, ind. rep., 2 ; Berry, pro., 1.

[1903.] March 12. Annual town meeting. Chose : town clerk, W. W. Eastman ; selectmen, W. W. Eastman, (declined to serve,) L. H. Parker, A. E. Tyler, Stephen H. Dexter ; road agent, B. M. Tyler.

Voted to raise for town charges \$400, schools \$300, highways \$800, Memorial day \$10.

[1904.] March 11. Annual town meeting in town hall. Chose: town clerk, W. W. Eastman; selectmen, L. H. Parker, A. E. Tyler, S. H. Dexter; road agent, B. M. Tyler.

Voted to raise for town charges \$400, schools \$300, highways \$800, Memorial day \$20.

November 8. Biennial and presidential election. Chose: moderator for two years, Lebina H. Parker; supervisors of check list, Orman L. Mann, Solomon J. Hutchins, Ervin A. Mardin.

The vote for governor was: Hollis, dem., 19; McLane, rep., 19. Presidential electors, Democratic 22, Republican 21. The whole number of ballots for representative was 40, necessary to a choice 21. William Kendall, rep. had 10, Lebina H. Parker 30, and Lebina H. Parker was declared elected.

Coventry-Benton like other New Hampshire towns had its quota of Justices of the Peace, the first appointed being Obadiah Eastman in 1806. His successors with the date of their respective appointments were: 1812, William Coolidge; 1814, Daniel Davis; 1822, William Whitcher; 1822, Jesse Eastman; 1831, Nathan Coburn; 1835, Daniel Batchelder; 1837 Deliverance Woodward; 1838, Enos Wells; 1840, John L. Corliss; 1842, James J. Page; 1843, Moses Whitcher; 1845 John Lathrop; 1847, Ira Whitcher; 1850, James Harriman, Jonathan Hunkings; 1851, Nathan B. Davis; 1855, George W. Mann; 1857, Daniel D. Page; 1861, Chase Whitcher; 1863, Caleb Wells; 1866, James Page; 1867, Amos Whitcher; 1872, Edward F. Mann, Benjamin H. Tyrrell; 1874, James H. Keyser; 1878, Pardon W. Allen; 1880, William B. Page; 1885, Orman L. Mann; 1889, William W. Eastman; 1892, Paul M. Howe; 1898,

Charles A. Veazey, Lebina H. Parker. Some of these held commissions but for a short time, owing to deaths or removal from town. Those who held commissions for the longest period were William Whitcher from 1822 until his death in 1859, a period of 37 years; James J. Page from 1842 till his death in 1880; Ira Whitcher from 1847 till his death in 1897, a period of 50 years; and George W. Mann from 1855 till his death in 1901, a period of 46 years.

It might be thought that, during these years when all the voters were of the same political party, the annual elections would be tame affairs, but political fights, especially when they are of a personal or family character, are always the bitterest. In the decade from 1850 to 1860 the "Bunga Road" controversy dominated the politics of the town, and indeed the question of whether this proposed highway along the banks of the Wild Ammonoosuc river, in the towns of Bath and Landaff, should or should not be built had much to do with political conditions in the county. The proposed road touched no part of Benton, but the Bunga Road question, for a period of ten years at least, overshadowed the Compromise act of 1850, its later repeal, the Kansas-Nebraska troubles, the anti-slavery struggle, and dominated not only the political life of Benton but entered into the social, educational and religious life as well. The four years in which George W. Mann and Daniel Whitcher were the opposing candidates for representative to the General Court were years when "Bunga Road" was the one absorbing theme. Phenomenally large votes were polled in those years. Voters were imported from other towns by both factions and kept in town long enough to gain a color of voting residence. The making of the check list was the work of artists. When Squire Page quoted to Squire Whitcher, who was chairman

of the Board of Selectmen, some pertinent decisions of Judge Story relating to what constituted a voting residence, Squire Whitcher replied that while Judge Story might be an excellent lawyer, "Judge Story is not revising this particular check list here today." It would, perhaps, be incorrect to say that money was used at elections in the purchase of votes, but in those strenuous days candidates and their particular friends were inclined to be friendly to those standing in need of friendship. A man who was unable to purchase a yoke of oxen, or to obtain funds to build a spruce oil distillery, or to procure a team for hauling lumber, or to undertake a logging job, or who could not make living wages for the support of himself and family during the winter months, was naturally inclined to remember favorably at the polls the leader of whichever faction aided him. Many of the smaller homesteads in town were mortgaged either to Ira Whitcher or to Chase Whitcher. It was not strange that mortgagor should be a partisan of mortgagee. There were acts of charity to the poor. The gift of a barrel of flour, or a pair of boots, or an overcoat immediately preceeding election, or the promise of it immediately after, was not perhaps without its influence; but there was a sentiment against the use of money to purchase votes. As a matter of fact there was not a surplusage of money in Benton. As an illustration of this sentiment this incident may be mentioned: Sarah Glazier promised Henry Sisco that she would marry him if he would vote for George W. Mann for representative. Henry voted for George, but when he came to claim Sarah's hand her moral nature revolted, and Henry was informed that she could never think of marrying a man base enough to sell his vote. This may be taken as pretty conclusive proof that while in the Bunga Road days, and later,

factional feeling ran high, there was no need of stringent bribery laws in Benton. The moral sentiment which found illustration in the Glazier-Sisco incident rebelled at bribery. The incident is beautiful except for the one little blemish—Sisco, who had been pledged to vote for Daniel Whitcher, did vote for George W. Mann. Benton voters, like other voters in other towns throughout the state, are irrevocably committed to purity of elections. It is such little blemishes as have been hinted at which have been magnified into stories of bribery.

CHAPTER VIII.

THE SCHOOLS.

There were never any high schools or academies in Coventry-Benton, only the district schools such as were common to the small rural towns of the state. The school houses were of the old fashioned type of buildings down to the sixties, when in the three districts, numbers four, five and six, in the north part of the town, new buildings were erected on more modern plans, but the most expensive of these, that in number five, cost less than \$1200. The old type of building is well remembered. It was, of course, small, unpainted, and placed as near the geographical center of the district as possible. The entrance was at one end, the teachers desk at the other. On each side of the house there were rows of plank benches, with desks constructed by the town carpenter, in front, the boys occupying one side of the house and the girls the other. In the early days heat was obtained from a large fireplace, and later, after stoves had been invented, from a big stove placed in the middle of the floor, the heat of which nearly roasted the youngsters on the front seats, while on the cold winter days the big boys and girls on the back seats next the wall shivered and froze. As for school furniture there was none, except a blackboard at one end of the house, and in one or two of the districts some small outline maps. The curriculum, or course of study, was of the go as you please order. It was arranged to meet the requirements of babies on the front seats who were trying to master the alphabet, and from these all

the way up to those who were "doing the sums" on the last pages of the arithmetic, who formed the class in grammar and who "analyzed and parsed" Milton's *Paradise Lost*, and Young's *Night Thoughts*. There was in the early days but one term of school a year, eight or ten weeks in winter, but later a summer term of eight or ten weeks was added. This latter was not so largely attended. The youngsters made up the school. The older ones had to work, and there was no time for school in the hoeing and haying season. From four to twenty-one was the school age in the winter, or beyond twenty-one if marriage had not put an end to school life. District number five was the most populous, and for many years there were from fifty to sixty scholars crowded into the little school house (now transformed into a dwelling house) in the winter term. It was the typical country school. There were from four to five classes in reading, from three to five in spelling, the same number in arithmetic and in geography, two in grammar, and one or two in history. Then there were the writing lessons, the enforced writing of compositions by the older pupils to be read before the entire school, the "speaking pieces," to say nothing of instruction in book-keeping, with now and then elementary algebra for an advanced few. It was primary, grammar and high school combined for sixty pupils all in one poorly lighted room, with such ventilation as came through the doors and windows. Judged by the standard of the modern system of graded schools, the schools of Benton and similar towns were only apologies, and poor ones at that, but judged by the product they turned out, they would compare favorably with the graded schools of the villages of today. The average boy and girl in Benton learned to read intelligently, and to write a fair hand, got a

fair knowledge of geography, learned the parts of speech, and if Colburn's Mental Arithmetic was used, was an expert mathematician. Pretty much the same ground was gone over winter after winter, under different teachers too, the ground covered was small, but in the course of ten or a dozen winters it was covered pretty thoroughly, and it is a better education to really know a few things well than to half know a great many, in fact, better to really know beyond all question that three and two make five than to be dimly guessing that x plus y equals a divided by b .

Not much money was spent on Benton schools. It should be said, however, in justice to the voters, that they usually spent all they could afford. The real fact is that they never had much money to spend. In proportion to its means Coventry-Benton made liberal appropriations for schools. The boys and girls who attended them, for the most part, made the best use they could of the opportunities offered and many of them availed themselves of additional facilities furnished by the academy at Haverhill, and later of the academies and seminaries at Newbury, Vt., New Hampton, Northfield and Tilton, while a few were able to pursue a college course of study. The chief factor in the old time district school was, of course, the teacher, and there were teachers and-teachers. Some of these were remembered for excellence of work or for peculiarities of administration or methods of instruction. The records of the early districts have long since disappeared, but there is well authenticated tradition that the first schools in the town were taught by Obadiah Eastman, Obadiah Eastman, Jr., Jonathan Hale, William Coolidge, David Marston and Salmon Niles. The early schools were at High Street and on the Meadows. The first schoolmaster in the north part of the town was

William Coolidge, and when two schools were maintained David Marston became a kind of assistant to Squire Coolidge. James J. Page was for many years a notable schoolmaster, but his schools were for the most part at High Street, on the Meadows, or in other towns. George W. Cogswell was for a number of years one of masters in the north part of the town. He was noted for his proficiency in arithmetic, for the excellence of his penmanship, and for "keeping order." This last qualification was one of the great essentials in the early days. Birch withes, and heavy rock maple rulers, with physical courage and strength to wield them, were regarded among the things of first importance. George W. Cogswell, James J. Page and Nathan B. Davis were adepts in the use of these implements of education. In later years famous Benton teachers of the second generation were Caleb Wells, George W. Mann, Darius K. Davis, Amos K. Torsey and James Page. Some of these had gained their inspiration from Moses H. Bixby, of Warren, who as a young man had taught for two or three winters in number four. Mr. Bixby was a man of marked ability, and later, was for many years a Baptist missionary to Burmah, and still later, was for many years, until his death in 1903, pastor of one of the largest Baptist churches in Providence, R. I. Other well remembered teachers of half a century or so ago were George W. Fisher, of North Haverhill, Luther C. Morse, of Center Haverhill, Eugene B. Gale, of North Haverhill. There were also some famous school ma'ams. Among these were Elvira Clark, of Landaff, Emma F. Orcutt, of Newbury, Vt., Mary Carleton, of Haverhill, Sarah R. Howe, of Benton, Susan D. Morse, of Haverhill, and Lizzie R. Page of Benton, many of whose pupils are still living and who have vivid recollections of the

ways and means devised to induce them to really accomplish something. Miss Orcutt found many of her pupils unable, except by dint of great effort to master the multiplication table. She finally induced the whole school to sing it to the tune of "Yankee Doodle," and the thing was done before the boys and girls realized that they had been learning the detested table. The visits of the superintending and prudential school committee were great occasions. They were expected as a matter of course to make speeches. Some of these latter are well remembered. George W. Mann never failed to quote from Pope :

" 'Tis education that forms the common mind,
Just as the twig is bent the tree's inclined."

Amos Wilson was at one time prudential school committee in district No. 5. On the first day of the term he called before the forenoon recess to consult the teacher about fuel, when he was invited to address the school. Amos was not a speechmaker, but he put on a bold front and made this brief address: "Children, I'm glad to see you have improved much." This was certainly complimentary to the teacher, who had been at her post a little over one hour. James Page never failed to exhort the pupils to so apply themselves that they should become "stars of the first magnitude."

There were no graduation exercises at the close of the school year, but then there was that famous last day of school, when the superintending committee paid his final visit, when the fathers and mothers were present, when there were the show recitations, when the boys "spoke pieces" and the girls read compositions, and when everybody was relieved to know that for three months at least it was over. The evening spelling schools in winter brought

together the scholars of the various districts in exciting rivalry for the honor of being the most accomplished speller in town. Winthrop C. Whitcher bore with becoming modesty this honor for several years, having probably "spelled down" more schools than any other of his time, but after many triumphs went down in ignominious defeat on the little word "gnaw," which he spelled "knew." George W. Mann, Caleb Wells and Amos G. Torsey were among the champions of their day, though this would hardly be suspected by those who have seen specimens of their orthography in later years.

As has been previously noted, to "keep school" successfully, first of all it was necessary to "keep order," and various tortures were invented by various teachers to accomplish this end. "Lickings" amounted to little more than tests of endurance, but in this particular they had their uses. To shed tears when the schoolmaster "licked" you was to lose caste. To take a sound "licking" without a whimper was to be a hero. "Lickings" were nothing, but to bend over and hold down a nail in the floor, or to hold out a book at arms length, or to be sent over to sit with the homliest girl in school, or, worst of all, to be sent to Squire William Whitcher's house to have that rigid old puritan just talk to you, some of these were genuine punishments.

The success of the schools in towns like Coventry-Benton was due in no small degree to the excellence of the text books. There were not many of these, but among them were some of the best. It is doubtful if there was ever compressed into small text book compass so many of the essentials of a first-class English education as were found in Webster's spelling book, supplemented by Adams' and Colburn's arithmetic, Morse's geography and the American

Preceptor.

Benton has now, like other New Hampshire towns, the town system of schools. The separate district system has been abolished, the prudential committee has given place to the town board of education, there is a more or less uniform course of study, and a more pretentious system, but measured by results, it may fairly be questioned whether there has been during the last half century, any phenomenal advance.

CHAPTER IX.

THE MILITIA AND SOLDIERS.

Coventry was not settled to any considerable extent until after the War of the Revolution, so that no soldiers enlisted for service in that war from the town. The proprietors, however, with such inhabitants as were in the town hired two men to represent them for a time as soldiers in the war, as appears from a petition presented to the General Court in February, 1786, as follows :

“To the Honorable Court of the State of New Hampshire now sitting at Portsmouth. Humbly shew the inhabitants of Coventry in said state, that when called on they hired one Jacob Whittier and one Edward Clark to answer as soldiers for said town in the Continental army during the war and gave them a generous bounty. That said town are so far remote from the seat of government and not organized with town officers, never made a regular return of them, and that there is an extent now against them for delinquency, wherefore your petitioners pray that they may be credited for said Whittier and Clark and have an order to discharge said extent, and your petitioners as in duty shall ever pray, etc.

MOSES Dow, in behalf of said town.”

Accompanying this petition was a certificate of Edward Clark to the effect that he served during the war in Col. Hazen's regiment for the town of Coventry and had received full satisfaction of Samuel Atkinson in behalf of the town for his hire or bounty ; also a certified copy of a discharge

signed by George Washington which stated that Edward Clark had been honored with a badge of merit for four years service. The town was allowed £60 for the service of Edward Clark. It does not appear that any action was taken in the case of Jacob Whittier.

Among those who rendered the patriot cause service during the war for independence, and who later became residents of the town were, Obadiah Eastman, the most prominent of the early settlers, Josiah Flanders, the father of Israel and James Flanders, and Joseph Young, who made his home with his daughter Polly after she married Amos Whitcher. The grave of Obadiah Eastman is in the cemetery at High Street, that of Josiah Flanders in the East cemetery, and that of Joseph Young in the West cemetery in the north part of the town.

In the war of 1812, Joseph Edmonds, fifer, and Moses Welsh and Jacob Whitcher, privates, served for six months, from July 27, 1812, to Jan. 27, 1813, at Stewartstown in a detached company under command of Ephraim Mahurin. The company was ordered there because of danger of predatory excursions of the enemy from Canada, and because contraband trade was rife on the frontier, by which the government was defrauded of revenue and the enemy furnished with supplies. This company was followed Apr. 6, 1813, by another in command of Edward Freeman, which served till Oct. 6, the same year. Of this latter company Peter Eastman, of Coventry, was lieutenant. These appear to be the only Coventry men who saw service in the second war with Great Britain. Stephen C. Sherman, who came to Benton from Lisbon later, rendered service at Lake Champlain, and in his latter years was granted a pension.

In the war with Mexico Daniel Batchelder, of Coventry,

was captain of Co. H, Ninth United States infantry. This regiment was under command of Truman B. Ransom, of Vermont, and was a part of the brigade of Gen. Franklin Pierce. Capt. Batchelder was born in Corinth, Vt., May 10, 1803. He was appointed adjutant of the Thirteenth regiment Aug. 13, 1833, and Captain of the Sixth Company of Infantry March 27, 1839. He represented the town of Coventry in the legislature in 1833, '34, '35, '36, '37, '38 and '39. Subsequently he removed to Haverhill and was representative from that town in 1845. March 6, 1847, he was appointed a Captain in the Ninth, or New England Regiment, United States Infantry, having recruited a large part of a company in Haverhill and other nearby towns. Before the regiment sailed from Newport, R. I., he was detailed in recruiting service at Fort Adams, where he remained until he resigned in March, 1848. Samuel A. Mann, son of Major Samuel Mann, had enlisted in the regular army previous to the Mexican war, and served with Taylor's army during the entire war. He was in several of the most important battles and was detailed for a term as bearer of dispatches to General Taylor.

Though the town furnished but few soldiers in the three wars named, military titles were common in the decades between 1830 and 1850, though they were won on the bloodless arenas of the training ground and muster field. There were Captains William Whitcher, Enos Wells, Winthrop G. Torsey, Amos Whitcher, Gilbert P. Wright, and several others whose military fame has been forgotten, to say nothing of a lengthy list of lieutenants, ensigns, sergeants and corporals. The town also boasted one field officer—a colonel. James Norris was noted chiefly for his extreme diffidence, a quality which led to extreme awkwardness, but he became

corporal and went up through the various grades of promotion until he became a full fledged colonel. He only saw one general muster day in this capacity, and ignominiously failed. Once a colonel, however, always a colonel, and he was ever after until his death, Dec. 25, 1890, at the age of 77, Colonel James Norris of the New Hampshire State Militia.

During the War of the Rebellion there were no enlistments from Benton till the summer of 1862, when under the call of the President for more men the town was called upon to fill its quota. There were 89 persons in town liable to military duty, and an effort was made to secure enlistments. Ira Whitecher was appointed enlisting agent, and as a result of his efforts, he enlisted Leonard Moody Aug. 6, who was mustered into Co. A, 9th regt. as private, died of disease at Washington Feb. 16, 1863; Daniel M. Howe, Aug. 15, mustered into Co. G, 11th regt. as private Sept. 2, was severely wounded at Spottsylvania Court House May 12, 1864, and was discharged for disability Apr. 2, 1865; Charles W. H. Howe, Aug. 15, mustered into Co. G, 11th regt. Sept 2, as private, died of disease at Washington Dec. 31, 1862; David Bowman, Aug. 16, mustered into Co. G, 11th regt. Sept. 2, as private, died of disease at Mt. Sterling, Ky., Apr. 17, 1863; Williard W. Coburn, Aug. 18, mustered into Co. G, 11th regt. as private, severely wounded at Fredericksburg Dec. 13, 1862, discharged for disability Sept. 20, 1863; Isaac H. Tyler, Aug. 21, mustered into Co. G, 11th regt. Sept. 2, as sergeant, discharged June 6, 1865 as private. Mr. Whitecher enlisted several others at this time, but they were credited to the quota of other towns, Landaff, Bath and Haverhill. Kimball Davis, son of Jeremiah B. Davis, enlisted July 18, 1863, in the 1st New

Hampshire light battery, and was mustered in under the name of William T. Davis. He was later credited to the quota of Benton, and was mustered out with his battery June 9, 1865. George Tirrell, son of B. H. Tirrell, enlisted in a Vermont regiment in 1861, was discharged for disability and died a little later at his home in Benton. Jeremiah B. Davis, Jr., enlisted in the 1st cavalry, but was credited to Haverhill. The town took action in September 1862 to encourage further enlistments, but there was no favorable result, and with the exception of Kimball Davis and Jeremiah B. Davis, Jr., above named, there were no volunteers from the town after August 1862.

At a special town meeting Sept. 2, 1862, Ira Whitcher moderator, it was voted to pay the sum of \$100 bounty to each volunteer enlisted since August 14 and to such as may enlist before September 15 for three years or during the war; also the sum of \$50 to each volunteer for nine months when mustered into the service of the United States. Voted that the selectmen be authorized to hire money for this purpose on the credit of the town.

At a special town meeting Oct. 10, 1862, Ira Whitcher moderator, it was voted that the selectmen be authorized to hire money on the credit of the town for the relief of families of volunteers who may be in needy circumstances.

When the call for more men came in 1863 the quota of the town was not full and draft was ordered. A special town meeting was held Sept. 29, 1863, Ira Whitcher moderator. Voted to raise a committee of three to take the matter of draft into consideration and report at an adjourned meeting. Chose: Ira Whitcher, Caleb Wells and Chase Whitcher. Voted to submit the whole matter of meeting draft and devising best means of procuring substitutes to the



DANIEL M. HOWE.



PARDON W. ALLEN.

Both the above rendered honorable service in the War of the Rebellion.

committee appointed, to report at an adjourned meeting Oct. 15. At the adjourned meeting Oct. 15 voted to leave the whole matter with the committee.

For the annual town meeting, March 19, 1864, the following appears in the record. "The committee that was chosen to provide for the relief of those drafted or conscripted into the service of the United States having reported verbally that they had procured on the credit of the town \$300 and expended the same to relieve George E. Brown from the draft, on motion voted that the town approve of and pay for the same."

Another call for men was issued July 18, 1864. The town did not respond with volunteers, and the committee chosen the year previous proceeded to meet the draft that was ordered by the purchase of substitutes, under the authority of a special town meeting held Aug. 31, 1864, James J. Page moderator. The committee reported the existing condition of affairs with draft threatened. It was moved that the town offer bounties to enlisted men of \$300 for one year, \$500 for two years and \$800 for three years. This motion was debated at length, and it appearing that even if it were adopted volunteers would not be forthcoming, the motion was withdrawn, and it was voted to submit the whole matter to the committee with authority to act for the town.

At the regular meeting for voting for presidential electors, Nov. 6, 1864, the committee submitted the following report :

"The undersigned, a committee chosen by the town to provide for filling quota under call of July 16, 1886, submit the following statement of facts. The quota was eight men. The provost marshal made a draft to fill the quota, with the addition of 100 per cent, making 16 men in all: Henry A.

Glazier, James Page, James H. Keyser, Horace W. Gordon, Emery Marston, Philemon P. Oakes, Nathaniel Mulliken, George Wells, B Laderbush, Wesley B. Marston, Claudius Libertie, Chester C. Clough, Lafayette W. Flanders, Moses W. Howe, Francis Dwyer, and William T. Torsey. Henry A. Glazier and Lafayette W. Flanders were discharged because of disability, and Claudius Libertie on account of being a foreigner. We procured one volunteer at a cost of \$700, and seven substitutes for whom we paid \$5385, one each for the following named drafted men: George Wells, Nathaniel Mulliken, Emery Marston, Wesley B. Marston, Moses W. Howe, James H. Keyser and Chester C. Clough. These were mustered into service for three years. The whole sum paid out is \$6085. The selectmen of the town have provided us with notes against the town signed by them in behalf of the town, for the following sums, all payable to individuals of the town or bearer on demand; nine for five hundred dollars each, three for three hundred dollars each, three for two hundred dollars each, and one for eighty-five dollars, said notes having been endorsed by the payees and others of the town. We have been able to raise the money required on these notes now outstanding against the town. To meet this indebtedness we have placed in the hands of the selectmen demands due from the state to individuals for whom substitutes were furnished and to the individuals who volunteered as bounties to the amount of twenty-five hundred dollars.

(Signed) IRA WHITCHER,
CALEB WELLS,
CHASE WHITCHER.

It was voted to accept the report, and the selectmen be instructed to collect of the state the amount due for the

bounties and appropriate the same in part payment of the notes before described, and that they be directed to hire money to meet the balance of all or any part of said notes as may be demanded by the bearers thereof.

It appears that the \$2400 was subsequently collected of the state, and the selectmen hired money on the credit of the town to pay these notes, though it would be a matter of extreme difficulty to find any law, under color of which the town could legally incur indebtedness, or raise money by taxation to hire substitutes for men drafted into the military service of the United States. The fact was that most of the drafted men were of themselves or their immediate friends unable to procure substitutes, and there was a common and unanimous feeling on the part of the voters of the town that no citizen should be forced into the army against his will. So the town in its corporate capacity assumed the burden, illegal though it was, and in time paid the debt. It may not have been the most exalted kind of patriotism, but there was this about it, the citizens of the town stood together for the personal protection of each other from a draft. It is to be doubted if any other town in the state purchased substitutes for drafted men and raised the purchase money by public taxation. This part of Benton's military history is at least unique. The substitutes were assigned to the Seventh Regiment, and all except two rendered honorable service. Dennis Hayes, substitute for Moses W. Howe, and John Adams, substitute for James H. Keyser, deserted. It should perhaps be said in behalf of these drafted men that no one of them has as yet applied for a pension. There was one Benton man who previous to the draft disabled himself by cutting off the thumb of his right hand in order to escape. Had he only waited he might have saved his thumb, and also spared

himself the nickname of "Thumby" which clung to him through life.

CHAPTER X.

THE CEMETERIES.

The earliest establishment of cemeteries in the town is that at "High Street," the two in the north part of the town being of later date. There was a small cemetery in the north part of the town in what is now a field at the top of the hill a few rods to the south of the present East cemetery, but all traces of it have been lost for many years. There is also a small cemetery on the Meadows on the A. L. Warren farm, but only a few of the graves are marked. The following are the inscriptions on the headstones.

Caleb S. Ford died January 6, 1848.

Elisha Ford died Feb. 14, 1849, in his 79th year.

Salome Ford, wife of Elisha Ford, died July 26, 1853, in her 83rd year.

HIGH STREET CEMETERY. The cemetery at "High Street" is in a very neglected condition. Many of the headstones have fallen and are partly buried under decaying grass and leaves, while others are broken and the pieces so scattered that the inscriptions are indecipherable. The following were, however, found there in the autumn of 1904.

Mrs. Ruth, wife of Obadiah Eastman, Jr., died October 19, 1813, in the 33rd year of her age.

Bert L. Littlefield died April 10, 1861, ae. 26.

Judith, daughter of Timothy and Betsey Ayer, died Jan. 13, 1834, ae. 19 yrs. 7 mos.

Elijah Gray died 1823, ae. 78 years.

Elijah Gray died Nov. 6, 1855, aged 83 years.

Alitha, wife of Elijah Gray, died Apr. 19, 1862, aged 82.

William D. McQuestion, son of Daniel and Betsey Patch, died January 14, 1829, aged 4 years, 2 mos.

Eunice G., daughter of Granville and Isabel Flanders, died Dec. 26, 1856, aged 17 years.

Susan G., daughter of Granville and Isabel Flanders, died Nov. 3, 1856, aged 12 years.

Mr. Stephen Batchelder died March 15, 1827, in the 22d year of his age.

Louisa J. Welch died Feb. 27, 1863, ae. 21 years.

Silas M. Welch died Feb. 23, 1863, ae. 38 years, 4 mos.

Bartlett Welch died March 16, 1863, ae. 33 years, 4 mo.

Nancy, wife of Silas M. Welch, died Apr. 28, 1877, ae. 55 years.

Franklin, son of Bartlett and Alice R. Welch, died Oct. 1, 1873, aged 19 years, 6 mos.

Alice R. wife of John L. Stevens, formerly wife of Bartlett Welch, died Sept. 16, 1877, aged 44 years.

Effie, daughter of D. L. and L. M. Wright, died Mar. 26, 1872, ae. 6 mos., 23 days.

Hetty, wife of Curtis C. Swift, died March 18, 1836, ae. 20 yrs.

Lucinda, wife of Joseph Nudd, died Dec. 29, 1869, ae. 58 yrs.

Abijah Wright died Feb. 26, 1870, aged 91 years.

Hannah, wife of Abijah Wright, died Apr. 18, 1852, ae. 74 years.

Josiah F. Jeffers died Sept 21, 1866, aged 55 years.

William Sampson, died June 16, 1845, aged 76 years.

Mary, wife of William Sampson, died December 14, 1861, aged 86.

Hugh Matthews died Sept. 23, 1838, aged 87 years.

John Jeffers died Sept. 5, 1859, ae. 77 years.

Lydia, wife of John Jeffers, died Dec. 8, 1831, aged 27 years.

Susan, wife of John Jeffers, died Apr. 27, 1833, ae. 30 years.

Polly, wife of John Jeffers, died Sept. 19, 1861, aged 76 years.

Samuel Jackson died Jan. 28, 1813, in his 70th year.

Obadiah Eastman, Esq., died Jan. 10, 1812, aged 64 years, 8 months.

Mehitabel, wife of Obadiah Eastman, died Dec 27, 1815, aged 68 years, 8 months.

[The above inscriptions are on a white marble monument, which bears on its base the words "Erected by Ira Whitcher in memory of one of the first settlers of Coventry."]

Moses Eastman died March 6, 1813, in his 31st year.

Eliza Boynton, wife of James Eastman, died Jan. 29, 1813, aged 35 years.

Ruth Welch, wife of Jonathan Welch, died Dec. 19, 1855, aged 66 years and 6 mos.

There are in this cemetery scores of unmarked graves, or of graves where gravestones have been broken and destroyed.

Just over the Benton line there is a small cemetery at Warren Summit, in which the late Ira Whitcher erected a monument which bears the following inscriptions.

Chase Whitcher died Feb. 1836, ae. 82.

Hannah Morrill, his wife, died Oct. 31, 1826, ae. 68.

Chase Whitcher died Jan. 26, 1850, ae. 62.

Mary Green, his wife, died Dec. 14, 1863, ae. 77.

The first named Chase Whitcher was one of the first settlers of the town of Warren, and his sons William, Jacob, Chase and David were among the first settlers in the north part of Benton.

In this same Warren Summit cemetery is another monument with these inscriptions.

James M. Harriman b. June 8, 1828—d. July 19, 1898.

Sarah J. Cady, his wife, b. May 18, 1845—d. Aug. 18, 1899.

EAST CEMETERY, NORTH BENTON. The two cemeteries in the north part of the town are both well kept and compare favorably in appearance with those in other rural sections of the state. Just why the lot where the first burials were made, and which has been previously mentioned as in a field to the south of the present East burying ground, was abandoned does not appear, but it is likely that a new ground was secured when the present highway was built, and the old highway which ran by the abandoned cemetery was discontinued some time in the thirties. The inscriptions on headstones and monuments in the present East cemetery situated on an elevation a little to the west of the meeting house are as follows :

Francis A. Oakes died August 8, 1863, aged 23 years.

Martha A. Day, his wife, died Sept. 1, 1863, aged 24 years.

Hezekiah Smith b. Jan. 25, 1796, d. Oct. 18, 1871.

Nancy Hoit, his wife, b. Sept. 17, 1796, d. Sept. 18, 1883.

[They were the parents of Mrs. Samuel C. Annis.]

James M. Sherman d. March 1, 1858, aged 7 mos.

Joseph Annis died June 5, 1859, aged 76 years.

Betsey Currier, wife of Joseph Annis, died Jan. 16, 1865, aged 77 years.

Samuel C. Annis, b. May 27, 1815, d. Mar. 15, 1899.

Mary F. Smith, his wife, b. June 6, 1825, d. Aug. 27, 1892.

Alonzo Annis, son of Samuel C. and Mary Annis, died Feb. 7, 1865, aged 5 years and 6 months.

Betsey J. Morse died May 9, 1866, ae. 47, [daughter of Joseph and Betsey Annis, and wife of William F. Morse.]

William H. Annis, b. Mar. 2, 1832. d. Dec. 30, 1897.

Eliza A., daughter of William F. and Betsey J. Morse, d. July 27, 1842, ae. 2 years.

Eva M., daughter of John and Eliza Flanders, d. Oct. 23, 1858, ae. 1 yr., 3 mos.

Elias P., son of Alvah C. and Mary K. Wright, d. Jan. 21, 1842, aged 4 years, 8 mos.

Israel Flanders died Dec. 10, 1887, aged 87 years.

Polly Wells, his wife, died July 25, 1894, aged 96 years.

Josiah Flanders died April 8, 1836, ae. 78 years.

Deborah M. Flanders, his wife, died Sept 12, 1846, ae. 82 years.

Elmer N., son of Nelson F. and Hannah Flanders Noyes, died May 16, 1856, aged 2 yrs. 2 mos.

Enos Wells died Oct. 16, 1862, aged 71 years.

Lois, wife of Enos Wells, died Apr. 4, 1821, aged 31 yrs.

Sally Clark, wife of Enos Wells, died Oct. 18, 1894, aged 93 yrs., 11 mos.

Chester, son of Enos and Sally Wells, died Feb. 7, 1843, aged 7 months.

Ephraim Cooley b. Dec. 13, 1816, d. Nov. 29, 1897.

Holman D. Cooley b. Feb. 23, 1843, d. Feb. 17, 1892.

Myra Cooley, wife of Dennis D. Davis, b. Oct. 3, 1854, d. Aug. 13, 1881.

William Leighton died Aug 18, 1877, aged 35.

Mary E., wife of Charles K. Merrill, died Oct 8, 1839, aged 45 years, 9 mos.

Daniel W. Brown died June 28, 1859, aged 26 years.

Olive, wife of John Brown, died Nov. 12, 1844, aged 50 years.

Betsey, wife of John Cox, died June 1, 1855, aged 77.

James A. Cox b. Feb. 20, 1822, d. June 8, 1897.

Sarah J., wife of James A. Cox, died June 6, 1881, aged 59.

Leonard C., son of James A. and Sarah J. Cox, d. Apr. 26, 1853, aged 13.

Hannah C., daughter of James H. and Hannah Cox, died Oct 5, 1852, ae. 20 yrs.

Benjamin, son of James H. and Hannah Cox, d. Mar. 14, 1837, aged 6 weeks.

Caroline C., wife of Lemuel Casbier, d. May 1, 1857.

James H. Cox b. 1795—d. 1879.

Hannah French, his wife, b. 1801—d. 1877.

George W., son of Bartlett and Anna Marston, d. Mar. 14, 1849, ae. 2 years.

Hosea M., son of Bartlett and Anna Marston, d. March 24, 1859, aged 1 mo.

Sarah L., daughter of Bartlett and Anna Marston d. Oct. 16, 1863, ae. 19 years.

May B., daughter of Bartlett and Anna Marston, d. Oct. 27, 1864, ae. 4 years.

Lafayette Wells d. July 18, 1830, aged 25.

Hannah, wife of Chellis Goodwin, d. June 22, 1831, ae. 34.

Sally, wife of Chellis Goodwin, d. Dec. 21, 1832, ae. 29.

Ara Smith d. Oct. 5, 1876, aged 76.

Margaret, wife of Ara Smith, d. May 21, 1851, ae. 52 yrs.

Ruth E. d. May 21, 1833, ae. 8 years.

Susan P. d. August 10, 1833, ae. 6 years.

Laura A. d. Aug. 29, 1833, ae. 4 years.

George B. d. March, 1836, ae. 3 years.

[Children of Ara and Margaret Smith.]

Nathan K., son of John K. and Sarah Davis, d. March 8, 1846, ae. 11 mos.

Mary, wife of Orrin Marston, d. Feb. 5, 1867, aged 53 years.

Sarah J., daughter of Orrin and Mary Marston, died Sept. 27, 1867, aged 23 years, 10 months.

Castanus P., son of Orrin and Mary Marston, b. August 27, 1845—d. February 3, 1887.

Amos C. Mann d. Aug. 22, 1875, aged 70 years.

Lyman Bemis d. June 18, 1887, aged 47 years.

John L., son of Asa and C. R. Dowse, died Oct. 19, 1882, aged 6 years.

Benjamin C. Hutchins d. Feb. 27, 1857, aged 74 years.

Sally Hutchins, daughter of Benjamin C. Hutchins, d. Aug. 17, 1826, ae. 26 yrs.

Noah C. Hutchins d. Jan 19, 1860, aged 37 years.

Benjamin F. Hutchins d. Dec. 30, 1856. aged 44 years.

Ellen B. Hutchins, d. Apr. 29, 1892, aged 75 years.

Myra Ann, d. Dec. 19, 1863, ae. 23 years.

Emma M., d. June 28, 1861, ae. 17 years.

George C. F. d. Mar. 8, 1864, ae. 14 years.

Moses C. W. d. Mar. 17, 1864, ae. 10 years.

Benjamin W. d. Mar. 17, 1864, ae. 8 years.

[Children of Benjamin F. and Ellen B. Hutchins.]

Samuel Bishop died Sept. 27, 1858, aged 83 years.

Betsey, wife of Samuel Bishop, died March 6, 1864, aged 88 years.

Franklin Bishop d. Feb. 16, 1852, aged 31 years.

Martin Bishop d. Jan. 10, 1852, aged 24 years.

Helen Ann Bishop, wife of James Hall, d. Jan. 10, 1848, aged 20 yrs.

Sarah Ann Bishop, wife of George W. Kendall, d. June

18, 1847, aged 21 years.

Maria W. Bishop died Nov. 13, 1846, aged 24 years.

William Keyser, died Jan. 20, 1865, aged 68 years.

Abigail Keyser, his wife, died Mar. 26, 1861, aged 65 years.

William K. Bruce died Mar. 7, 1858, aged 37 years.

Hannah E. Keyser died July 4, 1848, aged 24 years.

David Clough died Sept 27, 1865, aged 62 years.

Miriam M. Clough, wife of Chester Clough, died May 11, 1871, aged 32 years.

Stephen C. Sherman b. Feb. 11, 1792—d. Oct. 19, 1879.

Hannah, wife of Stephen C. Sherman, b. Jan. 14, 1796, —d. Oct. 26, 1880.

Hittie B. Sherman, wife of C. F. G. Smith, died Feb. 4, 1872, aged 39 years, 8 mos.

Darius K. Davis d. Feb. 10, 1869, aged 1 year 4 mos.

Abel E. Davis d. Feb. 9, 1869, aged 10 years, 8 mos.

[Children of I. B. and E. F. Davis.]

Levi Brooks died Aug. 16, 1857, aged 61 years, 3 mos.

Francella N., daughter of Levi and Eveline Brooks, aged 12 years, 7 mos.

Timothy Brooks died May 25, 1859, aged 24 years.

Isaac Brooks died March 27, 1852. aged 15 yrs., 4 mos.

John O. Keyser died Feb. 16, 1891, aged 69 years.

Eliza L. Harriman, his wife, died June 22, 1893, aged 79 years, 11 months.

John Wilson b. England 1812—d. March 4, 1891.

George P. Wilson b. Jan. 6, 1891—d. Apr. 21, 1893.

Mildred E. Wilson b. May 27, 1889—d. Apr. 22, 1893.

Emily J. Wilson b. Aug. 13, 1884—d. Sept. 6, 1899.

John E. Keyser died Jan. 7, 1896, aged 73 years.

Willie S. Keyser, son of John E. and Mahala S. Keyser, died March 24, 1867, aged 16 years, 5 mos.

Lydia A. Merrill, wife of Stephen H. R. Marden, 1839—1901.

WEST CEMETERY. This cemetery, situated on the main road to Bath and Haverhill, near the school house in district No. 5, has been much improved in recent years, and the lots are in the main well kept. There is a fund of \$500 established by the late Ira Whitecher the income of which is to be applied annually for the care of this comparatively small burying ground.

The following are the inscriptions on the monuments and tombstones :

Kimball Tyler b. Sept 27, 1783, d. Aug. 28, 1856.

Dorothy Day, wife of Kimball Tyler, b. Sept. 4, 1793, d. Mar. 7, 1868.

Sally Streeter, wife of Kimball Tyler, b. Feb. 28, 1784, d. May 1, 1842.

Sally S. Tyler, daughter of Alfred Tyler, d. May 28, 1847, aged 5 years.

Alfred Tyler d. Apr. 11, 1843, ae. 28 years.

Laura E. Keyser, wife of Frederick M. Tyler, b. July 28, 1857, d. Oct. 16, 1893.

Ray E. Tyler b. Nov. 15, 1884, d. June 3, 1893.

Alice E. Tyler b. Aug. 14, 1890, d. June 5, 1893.

Scott I. Tyler b. July 11, 1882, d. June 7, 1893.

[Children of F. M. and Laura E. Tyler.]

Carrie A. Spinney, wife of Byron M. Tyler, b. 1859, d. 1897.

Beulah L. Foss d. Sept. 2, 1891, aged 9 months.

Harvey A. Hunkings d. Jan. 17, 1859, aged 28 years.

Eugene T. Bowman d. Oct. 16, 1859, aged 7 years.

Myron P. Bowman d. Mar. 24, 1859, aged 4 years.

John M. Bowman d. Apr. 10, 1859, aged 6 months.

[Children of David and Hannah Parker Bowman.]

Asa Hinkley died Nov. 11, 1848, aged 88 years.

Margaret Hinkley, his wife, died May 11, 1848, aged 75 years.

James Hinkley died April 7, 1845, aged 43 years.

Charlotte Bradish, wife of Edwin Tyler, died Oct. 31, 1851, aged 31 years.

Lucinda Bradish died Sept. 9, 1842, aged 25 years.

Samuel Smith died at the residence of his son, July 5, 1842, aged 74 years. He formerly resided in Londonderry, Vt.

Thomas French died June 2, 1837, in his 80th year.

Ruth French, his wife.

Charles C. Tyler died July 27, 1878, aged 51 years.

Susan M., daughter of Charles C. and Diana Tyler, died Nov. 15, 1862, aged 1 year, 8 mos., 15 da.

Dexter, son of Charles C. and Diana Tyler, died March 18, 1882, aged 18 years.

Mary J. Clark, wife of A. E. Tyler, b. Dec. 13, 1867, died June 26, 1894.

Jonathan Davis died Sept. 23, 1888, aged 80 years.

Lydia G., wife of Jonathan Davis, died January 7, 1894, aged 87 years.

Eveline S. Davis died Oct. 2, 1840, aged 1 year.

Winthrop G. Davis died May 22, 1847, aged 3 years.

Sabrina E. Davis died January 18, 1863, aged 14 years, 4 months.

[Children of Jonathan and Lydia G. Davis.]

Abraham Norris died Sept. 7, 1840, aged 58 years.

Polly Norris died Sept. 26, 1861, aged 79 years.

Martha Norris died Oct. 16, 1888, aged 82 years.

James Norris died Dec. 25, 1890, aged 77 years.

Allie A. Howe, wife of Kendrick L. Howe, died Feb. 24, 1883, aged 17 years, 5 mos., 15 days.

Ben D. M. Howe died Sept. 4, 1880, aged 4 mos.

Silas, son of Daniel M. and Susan Howe, died Feb. 28, 1858, aged 8 mos.

Samuel Howe d. Feb. 5, 1899, aged 86 years.

Merab Howe d. Nov. 25, 1888, aged 77 years.

Royal Howe, son of Samuel and Merab Howe, died Aug. 28, 1852, aged 12 years.

John C. Speed died March 13, 1901, aged 64.

Israel H. Davis b. Sept. 12, 1804, d. Nov. 23, 1888.

Sally Batchelder, wife of Israel H. Davis, b. Jan. 15, 1804, d. April 11, 1898.

Sally, wife of Abel Batchelder, died Feb. 16, 1833, aged 65 years.

Nathaniel Howe b. June 14, 1793, d. Feb. 3, 1835.

Rachel, wife of Isaac Bickford, late consort of Nathaniel Howe, died Dec. 10, 1862, aged 67 years.

Lucinda, daughter of Nathaniel and Rachel Howe, died November 8, 1833, aged 1 year.

Jonathan Davis died January 26, 1843, aged 69 years.

Nathan B. Davis b. 1798, d. 1864.

Abigail S. Davis b. 1802, d. 1891.

Abigail S. Davis 1833—1835.

Sally Ann H. Davis 1835—1836.

Eveline B. Davis 1843—1847.

[Children of Nathan B. and Abigail S. Davis.]

Peter Howe 2nd, died Sept. 1880, aged 66 years.

Harriet W., wife of Peter Howe 2nd, died May 20, 1856, aged 37.

Rufus W. Howe died Nov. 23, 1864, aged 25 years.

Harry L. Howe died July 16, 1890, aged 22 years.

Samuel Mann died July 19, 1842, aged 69 years.

Mary, his wife, died Nov. 15, 1866, aged 86 years.

Edward F. Mann died Sept. 7, 1842, aged 24 years.

Samuel A. Mann b. May 6, 1812, d. Oct. 26, 1873.

Sally Bailey, his wife, b. June 18, 1809, d. Oct. 26, 1895.

Mary J. Coburn, daughter of Nathan Coburn, died Oct. 5, 1832, aged 2 years.

John Stow died Oct. 23, 1858, aged 73 years, 7 months.

Sally, wife of John Stow, died June 5, 1859, aged 71 years.

Reuben K. Stow died April 16, 1833, aged 19 years.

Joseph Stow died March 18, 1835, aged 9 years.

Daniel K. Stow died July 10, 1835, aged 15 years.

Jacob Whitcher died Jan. 11, 1841, aged 50 years.

Sarah Richardson, his wife, died May 2, 1834, aged 45 years.

Stephen R., son of Jacob and Sarah R. Whitcher, died Jan 1, 1843, aged 23 years.

Loren D., son of Jacob and Sarah R. Whitcher, died Sept. 3, 1821, aged 1 year.

George H., son of James A. and Hannah Mann, died Feb. 12, 1841, aged 2 years.

George W. Mann 1821—1901.

Susan M. Whitcher, his wife, 1825—1854.

Osman C. Mann died Oct. 20, 1870, aged 17 years, 10 months.

Joseph Young died March 30, 1852, aged 82 years, 9 months.

Eunice Young died August 21, 1853, aged 80 years 2 mos.

Daniel Howe died February 7, 1860, aged 74 years.

Phebe Howe, wife of Daniel Howe, died July 2, 1876, aged 83 years.

Otis, son of Daniel and Phebe Howe, died August 31,

1841, aged 10 years.

Betsey S., daughter of Elisha and Susan Meader, died December 27, 1839, aged 19 years.

Samuel Royce died Sept. 25, 1873, aged 91 years.

Dorcas, wife of Samuel Royce, died June 30, 1842, aged 60 years.

Ruth, daughter of Samuel and Dorcas Royce, died January 27, 1842, aged 18 years.

Lydia M., wife of Moses Noyes, daughter of Samuel and Dorcas Royce, died Oct. 14, 1850, aged 32 years.

William Whitcher died March 5, 1859, aged 75 years.

Mary, wife of William Whitcher, died Sept. 27, 1843, aged 61 years.

James Whitcher died August 30, 1837, aged 16 years.

William Whitcher, Jr., died Oct. 16, 1839, aged 30 years.

Moses Whitcher died March 18, 1846, aged 38 years.

Chase Whitcher died May 4, 1883, aged 61 years.

Sarah, wife of Chase Whitcher, died Feb. 17, 1878, aged 64 years.

Frances C., daughter of Chase and Sarah Whitcher, b. Aug. 22, 1849—d. Oct. 4, 1889.

Hannah, daughter of Chase and Sarah Whitcher, died Oct. 15, 1854, aged 11 months.

Edward F. Mann, Sept. 7, 1845—Aug. 19, 1892.

Marian, daughter of Edward F. and Elvah G. Mann, Feb. 13, 1882—Nov. 3, 1896.

Samuel Whitcher b. Aug. 24, 1814, d. Oct. 8, 1879.

Emily Quimby, wife of Samuel Whitcher, b. Jan. 25,

1818, died May 5, 1888.

David S. Whitcher b. Nov. 30, 1846, d. Mar. 11, 1881.

William F. Polley born December 28, 1865, died September 18, 1895.

Susan E. Whitcher, wife of George H. Clark, born Apr. 20, 1859, died Apr. 24, 1900.

John P. Cox died Nov. 19, 1876, aged 64 years.

Adaline M. Carpenter, his wife, died August 5, 1890, aged 70 years.

Harriet Noyes, daughter of Jonathan Noyes, died Apr. 15, 1836, aged 11 months.

Benjamin, son of Jonathan Noyes, died Oct. 10, 1842, aged 8 months.

Samuel Noyes, son of Jonathan Noyes, died Oct. 8, 1842, aged 16 years.

Spafford W. Cowan died Oct. 12, 1891, aged 80 years.

Alantha Parker, wife of Spafford W. Cowan, died Nov. 24, 1892, aged 73 years.

Peter Howe died Nov. 11, 1871, aged 84 years.

Mary Powers, wife of Peter Howe, died Feb. 6, 1876, aged 87 years.

Ann Powers, wife of James Snow, died Feb. 5, 1869, aged 81 years.

Frank, son of P. W. and Dorcas Allen, died Apr. 24, 1881, aged 22 months.

John S. Annis died May 16, 1902, aged 50 years.

Moses Torsey died Apr. 29, 1842, aged 71 years.

Sally, wife of Moses Torsey, died Feb. 18, 1853, aged 75 years.

Winthrop G. Torsey died Nov. 12, 1873, aged 74 years.

Theodosia, wife of Winthrop G. Torsey, died March 27, 1861, aged 61 years.

Amos G. Torsey died May 21, 1857, aged 27 years.

William T. Torsey died March 6, 1894, aged 66 years.

Irene, wife of William T. Torsey, died June 18, 1867, aged 33 years.

Amos W., son of William T. and Irene Torsey, died July 25, 1863, aged 3 years.

Ella E., daughter of Horace W. and Lucinda C. Gordon, died July 11, 1858, aged 2 years.

Georgie Aldrich, wife of William W. Eastman, Apr. 16, 1861—April 19, 1892.

Sylvester Eastman died January 19, 1860, aged 45 years.

Louisa Whitcher, wife of Sylvester Eastman, died May 4, 1899, aged 77 years.

Winthrop G., son of William and Sarah Davis, died June 17, 1864, aged 15 years.

Moses Carpenter died January 2, 1858, aged 64 years.

Mary Brown, his wife, 1799—1863.

Phebe J., wife of Alonzo D. Carpenter, died Oct. 10, 1857.

Martha J., wife of Halsey R. Howe, died Oct. 20, 1878, aged 26 years.

Herbert F., son of Halsey R. and Martha J. Howe, died Dec. 17, 1889, aged 11 years.

Prescott Parker born Nov. 30, 1821—died June 13, 1898.

Myrtie E. Keyser, wife of John Wallace, died Feb. 26, 1900, aged 26.

Charles B. Keyser died March 24, 1900, aged 74 years.

It will be noted that none of the inscriptions bear a death date prior to 1830 except a few of those in the "High Street" cemetery. There were deaths in the north part of the town, but in the struggle for existence which the pioneer settlers were making in that part of the town the graves were unmarked, a fact which speaks eloquently of the poverty endured and hardships borne by these early settlers.

CHAPTER XI.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS.

The record of births, marriages and deaths as found in the books of the town clerk is especially incomplete, meager and unsatisfactory during the fifty years between 1830 and 1880. The early settlers started well but their descendants grew careless and for years there was seldom an entry made by the town clerk. Such entries as were made have been carefully copied for this chapter, together with such information as has been obtainable from other sources, this latter being enclosed in brackets or appended in the form of foot notes.

MARRIAGES. At Coventry, March 7, 1802, by Obadiah Eastman, Justice of the Peace, Ira Martin, of Bradford, Vt., to Sally Flanders, of Haverhill.

At Coventry, April 21, 1803, by Obadiah Eastman, Justice of the Peace, Jeremiah Jackson to Anne Niles, both of Coventry.

At Coventry, Sept. 8, 1803, by Obadiah Eastman, Justice of the Peace, Robert Elliott, Jr., of Coventry, to Senthe Spafford, of Haverhill.

At Coventry, Oct. 2, 1803, by Obadiah Eastman, Justice of the Peace, Winthrop Elliott, of Coventry, to Polly Lufkin, of Haverhill.

Oct. 16, 1803, by Obadiah Eastman, Justice of the Peace, Josiah Flanders, of Haverhill, to Abigail Mead, of Coventry.

At Coventry, December 13, 1807, by William Coolidge, Justice of the Peace, Elisha Clifford, of Wentworth, to

Betsey Tyler, of Coventry.

March 14, 1809, by William Coolidge, Justice of the Peace, Peter Eastman to Sally Fuller, both of Coventry.

At New Holderness, March 21, 1813, by Robert Towle, rector of the Episcopal church, Chase Whitcher, of Coventry, to Mary Green, of New Holderness.

May 9, 1813, by William Coolidge, Justice of the Peace, James Rogers, of Greenfield, Mass., to Hepzibath Tyler, of Coventry.

Jan. 23, 1814, by William Coolidge, Justice of the Peace, Mr. Obadiah Eastman to Mrs. Eunice Eastman.

At Coventry, Feb. 10, 1814, by Daniel Davis, Justice of the Peace, David Elliott to Mary Mead, both of Coventry.

June 9, 1814, James Eastman to Polly Boynton.

June 20, 1819, by Daniel Davis, Justice of the Peace, Moses Mead to Mary Matthews, both of Coventry.

At Coventry, Dec. 2, 1819, by Daniel Davis, Justice of the Peace, James Ford to Betsey Ayer, both of Coventry.

Dec. 8, 1819, by Abel Merrill, Esq., of Warren, John Lathrop, of Chelsea, Vt., to Lavina Eastman, of Coventry.

By Nathan Coburn, Justice of the Peace, Robert Gray, of Coventry, to Mary Stickney, of Orford.

Oct. 29, 1821, by William Whitcher, Justice of the Peace, Elisha Kimball, of Methuen, Mass., to Sally Torsey, of Coventry.

At Coventry, January 18, 1823, by William Whitcher, Justice of the Peace, Winthrop G. Torsey, of Coventry, to Theodosia Tyler, of Piermont.

Dec. 28, 1823, by William Whitcher, Justice of the Peace, Robert Coburn to Betsey Torsey, both of Coventry.

In Coventry, July 6, 1828, by Rev. Daniel Batchelder, Levi James, of Newbury, Vt., to Cyrene Batchelder of

Coventry.

At Coventry, Oct. 14, 1830, by Nathan Coburn, J. P., Jonathan Coburn to Mrs. Lucy Connor, both of Haverhill.

June 16, 1833, by Elder George W. Cogswell, Chellis Goodwin to Olive Flanders, both of Coventry.

At Coventry, Nov. 2, 1833, by Nathan Coburn, Esq., Orrin Marston to Mary Torsey, both of Coventry.

Feb. 5, 1834, by Elder Barzilla Pierce, Milton Southard to Steneth Ayer, of Coventry.

In Coventry, Apr. 18, 1834, by Elder George W. Cogswell, John Jeffers to Polly Royce, both of Coventry.

In Lisbon, July 6, 1834, by George W. Cogswell, Jacob Whitcher, of Coventry, to Rebecca Allen, of Lisbon.

In Coventry, Oct. 1, 1837, by Elder Horace Webber, Edwin Tyler to Charlotte Bradish.

In Coventry, Feb. 12, 1838, by Enos Wells, J. P., Hazen Whitcher to Sally Tyler, both of Coventry.

[Hazen Whitcher was the son of Jacob and Sarah Richardson Whitcher. Sally Tyler was the daughter of Kimball and Sally Streeter Tyler. They resided in Benton for a few years after their marriage when they removed to Stoneham, Mass. Both lived to an advanced age. Of their children one daughter, Sarah Richardson, the wife of Col. Oliver H. Marston, of Stoneham, is living.

March 5, 1838, by the Rev. O. F. Willis, James A. Mann to Hannah Whitcher, both of Coventry.

[James A. Mann was the son of Samuel and Mary Howe Mann. Hannah Whitcher was the daughter of William and Mary Noyes Whitcher. They lived for a time in Newbury, Vt., then moved to Woburn, Mass. James A. Mann died in March, 1874, and Hannah, his wife, died in August, 1896. Of their children Moses W. lives in West Medford,

Mass., Abbie, wife of ——— Kendrick, lives in Michigan, and Lucy E. in Woburn, Mass.

April 28, 1838, by Enos Wells, Justice of the Peace, David M. Howe, son of Peter and Mary Powers Howe, to Betsey, daughter of Kimball and Sally Streeter Tyler. [They lived in Benton until about 1856, when they removed to Stoneham, Mass., where they resided until their death. David M. Howe married 2nd Mrs. Ann Parker, formerly of Bath, who still lives in Stoneham.]

Dec. 30, 1840, by James J. Page, Justice of the Peace, John Hardy, of Haverhill, to Lucy Tyler, of Coventry.

Jan. 11, 1846, by Robert Coburn, minister, Russell Coburn to Eliza Ann Coburn, both of Benton.

Mar. 17, 1846, by Robert Coburn, Noah C. Hutchins, of Benton, to Hannah Jesseman, of Franconia. [They resided in Benton. Noah C. Hutchins died in March 1860. Their daughter Eveline married Rev. George E. Brown, then of Benton, now of Haverhill. A son, Solomon J. Hutchins, resides in Benton. Hannah married 2nd William T. Torsey. He died March 6, 1894. She died July 30, 1897.]

July 10, 1846, by Robert Coburn, minister of the gospel, Alfred Webber, of Benton to Mary Ann Webber of Newbury, Vt.

Dec. 17, 1839, by Rev. Harris Johnson, Josiah F. Jeffers to Aseneth, daughter of Abijah Wright. [They lived in Benton at High Street until the death of Mr. Jeffers, when the widow removed from town to make her home with her daughter Marietta, the wife of a Methodist Episcopal clergyman, Rev. James M. Copp. Their son, Samuel G., also removed from town about 1870.]

Feb. 9, 1842, by Rev. John Gould, Daniel D. Page, of Benton, to Charlotte A. Baleyn, of Hinsdale.

Jan. 28, 1847, Charles C. Tyler, son of Kimball and Sally Streeter Tyler, to Diana, daughter of Samuel Bishop, of Landaff.

March 7, 1852, by the Rev. D. W. Barber, Nelson F. Noyes, of Haverhill, to Hannah, daughter of Israel and Polly Flanders, of Benton. [Nelson F. Noyes was the son of Moses and Polly Howe Noyes.]

March 23, 1875, Fred M. Tyler, 23, son of Charles C. and Diana Tyler, to Laura E. Keyser, 17, daughter of James H. Keyser, both of Benton.

March 11, 1878, Dennis D. Davis, son of Jeremiah B. and Susan Tyler Davis, 29, to Myra S. Leighton, daughter of Ephraim and Adaline Cooley, both of Benton.

May 28, 1878, William W. Eastman, 28, son of Sylvester and Louisa Whitcher Eastman, of Benton, to Georgie A. Aldrich, 18, of Haverhill.

Oct. 15, 1879, Kendrick L. Howe, 23, son of Daniel M. and Susan Clough Howe to Allie E. Collins, 15, daughter of Charles T. and Sarah Pike Collins, both of Benton.

Dec. 30, 1881, Frank B. Parker, 25, son of Prescott and Maria Parker, of Benton, to Mattie B. Haywood, 18, of Haverhill.

June 3, 1882, Byron M. Tyler, 28, son of Charles C. and Diana Bishop Tyler, of Benton, to Rose B. Clark, 26, of Haverhill.

Nov. 21, 1882, John F. Foss, 21, to Lovia B., 21, daughter of John and Eliza Brown Flanders, of Benton.

Aug. 15, 1886, Frank Aikin, 41, to Ann R. Shaw, 35, daughter of Lucius Hutchins.

Jan. 15, 1887, William B. Page, 29, son of Daniel D. and Charlotte Page, of Benton, to Hattie E. Warren, 29, of Haverhill.

Jan. 22, 1888, A. A. Foss, 24, to May Tyler, 19, of Benton, daughter of Charles C. and Diana Bishop Tyler.

November 23, 1888, Bert E. Buzzel, 20, to Kate S. Howe, 18, of Benton, daughter of Daniel M. and Susan Clough Howe.

November 29, 1888, Charles C. Bean, Jr., 20, to Elgie M. Flanders, 20, of Benton, daughter of John and Eliza Brown Flanders.

Nov. 29, 1888, George H. Gilman, 27, of Benton, to Carrie L. Sawyer, 21, of Haverhill.

February 9, 1889, Horace R. Spooner, 27, of Benton to Blanche A. Humphrey, 18, of Newbury, Vt.

May 14, 1889, Paul M. Howe, 28, son of Daniel M. and Susan Clough Howe, to Anna C. Annis, 33, daughter of Samuel C. and Mary Smith Annis, both of Benton. [They lived in Benton till about 1895 when they removed to Pike, where Mr. Howe has since been in the employ of the Pike Manufacturing Co.]

July 2, 1889, Moses Stone, 31, of Benton, to Eliza Paradis, of New Market.

Dec. 2, 1889, Edward W. Balkam, 77, of Haverhill, to Adaline M. Norris, 67, of Benton. [The wife was a daughter of Moses C. and Mary Brown Carpenter. She married 1st John P. Cox, by whom she had two sons, Edward L., deceased, and Birt, now residing in Benton. She married 2nd David M. Norris, who died in Benton May 24, 1889. Mrs. Balkam died in Woodsville, Aug. 5, 1890.]

Feb. 18, 1890, Freman Thebado, 22, to Exilda Paradis, 16, both of Benton.

March 4, 1890, George W. Ingerson, 48, of Benton, to Mary E. Whiteman, 35, of Manchester.

Aug. 27, 1890, Norman C. McLeod, 26, of Benton, to

Kate McLeod, of Whiton, P. Q.

July 18, 1891, Daniel Spooner, 25, to Nora Bourke, 17, both of Benton.

Dec. 8, 1891, John Wallace, 23, to Myrtie E. Keyser, 18, adopted daughter of Charles B. and Mary Davis Keyser, both of Benton.

Dec. 12, 1891, Clarence A. Spooner, 26, to Lilla M. Temple, 18, both of Benton.

May 18, 1891, Nahum W. French, 37, of Haverhill, to Lena E. Brooks, 25, daughter of Charles T. and Sarah Pike Collins, of Benton.

Aug. 24, 1893, James Murdock, 37, to Eveline Fackney, 19, both of Benton.

Apr. 5, 1894, George Fillion, 22, to Delandra Derosha, 24, both of Benton.

Dec. 17, 1895, Willie I. Eastman, 22, to Lulu M. Cox, 18, daughter of Birt Cox, both of Benton.

June 30, 1896, Charles P. Collins, 19, son of Charles T. and Sarah Pike Collins, to Gracie M. Mann, 19, daughter of Orman L. and Ella Haywood Mann, both of Benton.

Oct. 21, 1896, Arthur C. Delaney, 28, to Elgie M. Bean, 28, daughter of John and Eliza Brown Flanders.

Nov. 24, 1896, Stephen H. Dexter, 24, to Estella Tyler, 18, both of Benton, daughter of Frederick M. and Ella Keyser Tyler.

Sept. 16, 1897, Edgar L. Morse, 38, of Easton, to Kate H. Buzzel, 26, of Benton, daughter of Daniel M. and Susan Clough Howe.

Sept. 12, 1897, Clarence Fifield, 23, to Charlina C. Tyler, 17, of Benton, daughter of Frederick M. and Ella Keyser Tyler.

Aug. 31, 1898, A. E. Tyler, 44, son of Charles C. and

Diana Bishop Tyler to Isabel Muir, 36, of Bath.

June 11, 1900, William R. Severance, 22, of Stoneham, Mass., to Edna W. Tyler, 23, of Benton, daughter of Frederick M. and Ella Keyser Tyler.

Nov. 28, 1900, Willis A. Brown, 29, of Bellows Falls, Vt., to Jennie F. Veazey, 26, of Benton, daughter of Charles and Ruth J. Veazey.

April 20, 1901, Carroll B. Tyler, 30, son of Charles C. and Diana Bishop Tyler, to Veronia D. Tibbetts, 19, daughter of De Elden Tibbetts, both of Benton.

Nov. 16, 1901, Byron M. Tyler, 43, of Benton, son of Charles C. and Diana Bishop Tyler, to Helen F. Corwin, 43, Peterborough.

Jan. 10, 1902, Alonzo Spooner, 68, of Benton to Margaret J. Dacey, 39, of Penacook.

March 28, 1903, Stephen H. R. Marden, 65, of Benton, to Emma J. Carden, 47, of Westford, Mass.

Apr. 20, 1903, Oscar F. Spooner, 26, son of Alonzo Spooner, to Eva Moses, 16, both of Benton.

BIRTHS. The record of births is very incomplete in the town records, and but little additional information can be gleaned from the members of the families still residing in the town. Of the early families there are almost no representatives remaining in town, and correspondence with widely scattered representatives reveals the fact that there was gross carelessness in keeping the family records, and that in many instances, such meager records as were kept have been lost. There are now widely scattered representatives of scores of families, who lived in town prior to 1850, who are anxious to learn something concerning their ancestry and of the history of their respective families during the early

life of Coventry, but are unable themselves to furnish anything beyond unreliable tradition. In connection with the meager record of births found in the books of the town clerk there is also in some cases a record of the marriage of parents. The full record is here given together with such other facts as have been obtained by correspondence and inquiry.

Obadiah Eastman, Esq., b. May, 7, 1747.

Mehitabel, his wife, born Apr. 27, 1747.

Jesse, b. Sept. 13, 1769.

Sarah, b. July 31, 1771.

James, b. Mar. 12, 1774.

Obadiah, Jr., b. Oct. 5, 1777.

Mehitabel, b. Feb. 21, 1780.

Moses, b. Dec. 21, 1782.

Ruth, b. July 26, 1785.

Peter, b. June 3, 1788.

James, son of Obadiah and Mehitabel Eastman, m. Betsey Boynton (b. Oct. 8, 1778), Aug. 28, 1798.

Jesse, b. July 28, 1799.

Rosilla, b. Sept. 14, 1803.

Louisa, b. June 29, 1805.

Nancy, b. June 13, 1808.

Sylvester, b. Aug. 3, 1814.

Betsey, b. Sept. 22, 1816.

Moses, b. December, 14, 1818.

[There was also a younger son, James.]

Sylvester Eastman, son of James and Betsey Boynton Eastman, m. Louisa, daughter of William and Mary Noyes Witcher, b. Dec. 22, 1812.

[Of their three children George E., m. Rebecca Bronson,

who with her two daughters resides at No. Haverhill ; Ruth J., m. Chas. A. Veazey, and resides in Benton, their two children having removed from town, William D. Veazey engaging in the practice of law in Laconia, and Mrs. W. A. Brown residing in Bellows Falls, Vt. ; William W. m. first Georgia A. Aldrich, of Haverhill, 2nd Mrs. Edna Eastman, of Easton, and resides in Benton.]

Phebe Eastman, b. June 9, 1808.

Caroline Eastman, b. Dec. 3, 1810.

[They were the daughters of Moses and Eunice Eastman.]

Children of Peter and Sarah Eastman.

Asa Eastman, b. Feb. 18, 1810.

Abigail Eastman, b. Aug. 28, 1812.

Adaline Eastman, b. June 18, 1814.

Obadiah Eastman 3rd, b. Nov. 6, 1804.

Ezra Eastman, b. Nov. 9, 1808.

Ebenezer Eastman, b. Aug. 22, 1810.

Ruth Eastman, b. Sept. 8, 1814.

[These were children of Jesse Eastman.]

Jeremiah Jackson, b. Oct. 9, 1783, d. June 12, 1817.

Ann, his wife, b. May 23, 1783.

CHILDREN.

Olive, b. July 27, 1804.

Artemas, b. April 27, 1806.

Sarah, b. April 19, 1808.

Hannah, b. May 8, 1810.

Mary Ann, b. July 27, 1812.

James, b. November 9, 1814.

Betsey, b. April 19, 1817.

William Coolidge, b. Jan. 28, 1777.

Mary Hale, his wife, daughter of Major Jonathan Hale,
born Nov. 23, 1777. Married, May 19, 1800.

CHILDREN.

Mary Bridge, b. July 8, 1801.

William Frederick, b. July 28, 1804.

Edmund Preble, b. Apr. 29, 1806.

Jonathan Hale, b. Dec. 17, 1807.

Salmon Niles, b. March 11, 1768.

Millie, his wife, b. Apr. 4, 1779.

CHILDREN.

Joseph, b. June 28, 1798.

Ezra, b. Aug. 29, 1799.

Millie, b. July 27, 1803.

Sally, b. Mar. 16, 1805.

Synthia, b. Nov. 4, 1806.

Mira, b. Aug. 6, 1807.

Marenda, b. Sept. 9, 1808.

Jesse, b. March 8, 1810.

Salmon, Jr., b. May 14, 1812.

Levi, b. Jan. 26, 1814.

Louisa, b. October 9, 1817.

Mary, b. June, 15, 1820.

Cyrus, b. December 1823.

[The family early removed from town, Salmon Niles having come from Rumney to Coventry. None of his children remained in town on reaching manhood and womanhood, but they have descendants living in Ohio and Indiana filling responsible positions in the social, political and financial world.]

Joseph E. Marston, b. June 20, 1777.

Ruth, his wife, b. Oct. 12, 1780.

John Westley Marston, b. Apr. 22, 1804.

[Whether Joseph E. Marston was a relative of David and Jonathan does not appear. Some of the descendants of Jonathan think he was an elder brother, but are not certain. He remained in town but a short time, living at High Street.]

Peter Howe, Jr., b. September 16, 1787.

Mary Powers, b. April 13, 1790. Married, November 22, 1812.

Sally Howe, b. July 22, 1813.

[Sally married ——— Streeter, of Lisbon, where she lived until her death, and where and in adjoining towns a number of her descendants are still living. Other children were Phebe M., born Feb. 24, 1815, who married 1st Alfred Tyler. One son, Isaac H. Tyler, served during the War of the Rebellion in the 11th New Hampshire Vols., and at last accounts was living in Wisconsin. She married 2nd Moses N. Howland, of Landaff, by whom she had several children, one son being a successful farmer in Piermont. David M., born March 9, 1817, married Betsey Tyler, lived in Benton and Stoneham, Mass, where both died. Moses W. married Laura, daughter of Jacob M. White, lived in Benton and Stoneham, Mass., where his widow and two sons, Herbert and Harry, still reside.]

Thais Jackson, b. Feb. 6, 1801.

Amos Jackson, b. Jan. 9, 1803.

Moses Jackson, b. Sept. 28, 1805.

Samuel Jackson, b. Nov. 14, 1807.

Mehitabel Jackson, b. Mar. 13, 1810.

CHILDREN OF THOMAS JACKSON.

Marcus B., b. December 14, 1808.

Dan Young, b. February 11, 1810.

William Wilson, b. March 2, 1812.

Fletcher, b. August 25, 1814.

Eliza Jackson, b. March 3, 1818.

Thomas Branch, ———

John, ———

[These sons and daughter of Thomas Jackson removed to Haverhill in early life, the sons becoming leading citizens of the town.]

CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM AND POLLY NORRIS.

Martha, b. April 2, 1807.

Betsey, b. March 12, 1811.

James, b. July 4, 1814.

David Marston, b. Nov. 5, 1816.

Merrill, b. Sept. 13, 1820.

J. Dean, b. ———

David Marston, b. September 17, 1779.

Susannah Bronson his wife, b. July 29, 1777.

Married, January 23, 1803.

CHILDREN.

Mehitabel, b. November 27, 1808.

Lucy, b. September 7, 1811.

William Coolidge, b. July 28, 1815.

[William Coolidge Marston was a prominent citizen of Haverhill. One son, Moody C., married a daughter of John White, of Wells River, Vt. He rendered honorable service in the 11th N. H. vols. He is at present a prosperous farmer in Bath. He has two children, John G. and Clara, wife of Martin W. Howland of Woodsville.]

Ebenezer Gage Knight son of Jeremiah Knight,
born November 19, 1829.

Benjamin R. Davis, b. June 21, 1791.

Betsey Stuart, his wife, b. December 13, 1791. Married
December 12, 1811.

CHILDREN.

Elias S., b. July 27, 1813.

Alvan, b. July 3, 1815.

Betsey, b. October 4, 1817.

Erastus, b. November 23, 1819.

Belinda E., b. October 31, 1821.

Benjamin R., Jr., b. November 11, 1823.

James Harford and Betsey Hill, married January 13,
1818.

CHILDREN.

Viania, b. July 19, 1818.

Sylvanus, b. May 16, 1820.

James Jr., b. Sept. 29, 1822.

John, b. January 27, 1824.

James Jeffers, b. August 7, 1823.

Elvira French, b. August 10, 1822.

Submit Page, b. Sept. 21, 1822.

Addison Wyman Eastman, b. April 30, 1823.

Hugh Matthews, b. November 20, 1750.

Mary, his wife, b. August 28, 1775.

CHILDREN.

Mary Jane, b. February 14, 1803.

Caroline, b. October 29, 1806.

Lucinda, b. April 13, 1809.

David, b. August 14, 1811.

Hetty, b. April 14, 1816.

Sophronia, b. October 13, 1819.

Eliza Swan, b. October 29, 1821.

Loeza Doty, b. June 15, 1801, d. October 21, 1816.

William Doty, b. August 2, 1805.

Curtis Doty, b. July 10, 1807.

Niles Doty, b. February 14, 1809.

[Niles Doty lived at East Haverhill until his death at an advanced age about 1880. A daughter of his still resides on the homestead farm.]

Hugh Alexander Rogers, b. May 22, 1819.

Mary Gould Jeffers, b. August 5, 1821,

Philena Eastman, b. April 24, 1822.

Jonathan Welch, b. August 7, 1797.

Ruth, his wife, b. January 14, 1790. Married, December 2, 1819.

CHILDREN.

Silas Morrill, b. April 23, 1826.

Bartlett, b. February 10, 1828, d. March 17, 1829.

Bartlett, b. November 9, 1829.

CHILDREN OF WIDOW MARY TYLER.

Lydia, b. February 4, 1826.

Jesse, b. Oct. 4, 1827.

Mary Jane, b. May 19, 1829.

James Trefren, b. May 28, 1815.

Orrin Trefren, b. May 24, 1817.

Amy Trefren, b. May 7, 1819.

David Marston Trefren, b. February 9, 1822.

Gilman Trefren, b. March 1, 1824.

Jesse Eastman 2nd, b. July 28, 1799.

Sarah, his wife, b. Dec. 29, 1796. Married, August 12, 1821.

James Eastman, b. May 12, 1823.

Mary H. Palmer, b. June 24, 1800.

Joseph F. Palmer, b. October 7, 1803.

James Palmer, b. March 24, 1805.

Sally W. Palmer, b. Apr. 28, 1807.

Judith G. Palmer, b. August 17, 1809.

Daniel Doty, b. June 15, 1766.

Salatha, his wife, b. August 28, 1768.

CHILDREN.

Adaniah, b. September 11, 1789, d. July 1, 1813.

Levi, b. June 15, 1792, d. April 22, 1813.

Barnabas, b. June 15, 1794, d. Oct. 9, 1798.

Jesse, b. May 8, 1795, d. June 14, 1795.

Clarinda, b. April 5, 1798.

Jacob Currier, b. Nov. 27, 1798.

Susan Whitcher, b. Dec. 25, 1802. Married, December 25, 1821.

CHILDREN.

Susan W., b. January 1, 1823.

John W., b. May 7, 1824.

Patience F., b. November 28, 1825.

Moses C., b. January 8, 1829.

Alonzo, b. Dec. 23, 1830.

CHILDREN OF JONATHAN AND PHEBE HOWE MARSTON.

Orrin, b. Jan. 15, 1809.

Bartlett, b. April 28, 1816.

Jonathan Hale, b. July 1, 1818.

Phebe, b. March 7, 1823.

[Phebe married Gilbert P. Wright. They had a large family of children, several residing in Haverhill, while others have made homes in other localities. Mrs. Wright is still living in Haverhill.]

James B. Ball, b. Dec. 31, 1797, married Roxana Curnburn, May, 1816.

CHILDREN.

Mary, b. October 3, 1816.

Rachel, b. August 3, 1818.

Lois W., b. December 1, 1821.

Enos W., b. April 6, 1823.

[This family removed to East Landaff, now Easton, where several descendants of James B. and Roxana Ball are still living.]

Kimball Tyler, b. September 9, 1783.

Sally Streeter, b. February 28, 1784.

Married, April 15, 1805.

CHILDREN.

Relief, b. November 2, 1805.

Lucy, b. August 2, 1807, d. May 4, 1812.

Kimball, b. December 9, 1808.

[He lived but a little time in Coventry after reaching his

majority, but removed to Stoneham, Mass., where he spent most of his life.]

Sally, b. May 27, 1810. [m. Hazen Whitcher].

Susan K., b. September 14, 1812.

[m. Jeremiah B. Davis, by whom she had issue. Wesley, deceased; Mary, married Charles B. Keyser, resides in Benton; Laban T., resides in Lynn, Mass.; Eliza, m. Burton French of Haverhill; Kimball T.; Sally, deceased; Jeremiah B., Jr., resides in Easton; Constantine, deceased; Dennis D.]

Edwin, b. August 20, 1814.

Alfred b. March 13, 1816.

Betsey, b. March 22, 1818. [m. David M. Howe.]

Laban, b. January 26, 1820. [Lived for several years in Stoneham, Mass., then removed to Michigan.]

Eliza, b. October 16, 1821.

Moses K., b. March 14, 1823. [m. daughter of Prescott Parker, lived in Stoneham, Mass. and Benton and then removed to Michigan.]

Charles C., b. July 2, 1827. [m. Diana Bishop, and lived in Benton till his death at the age of 51.]

George, b. May 27, 1831. [m. Jane Siddons, daughter of William Siddons and lived in Benton, Stoneham, and Lynn, Mass.]

Lucetta, b. January 9, 1832. [Unmarried and resides in Stoneham, Mass.]

Asa Page Knight, b. August 13, 1827.

Ezekiel Day, b. January 10, 1819.

Samuel E. Day, b. January 3, 1821.

Daniel Day, b. April 28, 1822.

Abigail G. Day, b. May 30, 1823.

James Hopkins Cox, b. January 10, 1797.

Hannah French, b. June 28, 1800. Married,
March 1, 1821.

CHILDREN.

James Albert, b. February 20, 1822. [There were two other sons, Thomas F., who lived with his father until the family removed from town, and George W., who learned the wheelwrights trade, lived at Swiftwater and Haverhill for a few years and removed to Manchester.]

Aaron Knight and Betsey Currier were married, December 23, 1819.

CHILDREN.

Louisa K., b. September 15, 1820.

Caleb, b. March 5, 1822.

Moses, b. November 15, 1823.

Moses Mead, b. August 11, 1800.

Mary, his wife, b. December, 1797.

CHILDREN.

Warren, b. August 20, 1820.

Emeline, b. January 1, 1823.

CHILDREN OF ISRAEL AND POLLY WELLS FLANDERS.

John, b. July 9, 1826. [m. Eliza J. daughter of John Brown, d. 1904.]

Mahala, b. July 3, 1828. [married John E. Keyser. Since the death of her husband in 1896, resides in Benton.]

Lafayette Wells, b. September 18, 1830. [m. 1st, Ann Wright, daughter of Russell Wright of Haverhill, 2nd, Marietta, daughter of Joseph Hutchins. Removed to

Haverhill about 1870, d. 1905.]

Hannah Goodwin, b. May 6, 1832. [m. 1st, Nelson F. Noyes, 2nd, ——— Dexter. Resides with daughter in St. Johnsbury, Vt.]

CHILDREN OF DAVID AND PHEBE SMITH WHITCHER.

David Marston, b. June 30, 1831.

Daniel Batchelder, b. July 6, 1833.

Joseph, b. ———

[These three brothers removed to Meredith and have since with their children resided in Meredith and New Hampton.]

Samuel Coburn Young, son of David Young, Jr.,
b. December 24, 1827.

Augustus Coburn Young, son of David Young, Jr.,
b. September 16, 1830.

CHILDREN OF SAMUEL AND ELATA KIMBALL.

Chauncey, b. June 24, 1831.

Daniel, b. January 1, 1833.

Mary, b. Sept. 23, 1834.

CHILDREN OF ROBERT AND BETSEY TORSEY COBURN.

Moore Russell, b. July 4, 1824.

Rosella, b. July 7, 1826.

Robert Gilman, b. June 28, 1828.

Betsey Jane, b. September 16, 1830.

Moses Torsey, b. February 19, 1833.

Augustus, b. April 1, 1836.

Josiah Nelson, b. January 11, 1846.

Chester Hutchins Noyes, son of Jonathan Noyes, b.
June 12, 1833.

Nathan Coburn Stow and Nathaniel Howe Stowe, sons of John and Sally Stow, b. May 3, 1829.

[These brothers married sisters, Ruth Weed and Ann Weed and removed to Stoneham, Mass.]

Sarah Stow, daughter of John and Sally Stow, b. April 3, 1831.

CHILDREN OF KINSLEY AND BETSEY BATCHELDER.

Sally Sanborn, b. February 13, 1832.

Mary Ann, b. November 15, 1833.

CHILDREN OF NATHAN AND MARY PARKER COBURN.

Nathan Parker, b. February 6, 1817.

Levi Parker, b. May 12, 1819.

Alonzo, b. October 16, 1821.

Lydia W., b. July 23, 1823.

James Fisk, b. November 6, 1825.

Benjamin Franklin, b. November 13, 1827.

Mary Jane, b. March 24, 1830, d. Oct. 5, 1832.

Sally Ann, b. Sept. 20, 1832.

Daniel Jenness, b. May 15, 1835.

CHILDREN OF NATHANIEL AND RACHEL COBURN HOWE.

Nathan Coburn, b. September 7, 1817.

Stedman Willard, b. Apr. 21, 1822.

Ira Goodall, b. May 19, 1827.

Kimball Tyler, b. May 19, 1828.

CHILDREN OF ENOS AND SALLY CLARK WELLS.

Caleb, b. Oct. 19, 1826.

George, b. March 18, 1828. [d. July 29, 1905.]

Enos C., b. March 20, 1830, [d. August 8, 1905.]

William Witcher, b. Mar. 23, 1783.

Mary Noyes, b. Nov. 5, 1787.

Married, February 15, 1807.

CHILDREN.

Moses, b. December 26, 1807 ; [see p. 54.]

William, Jr., b. December 26, 1808, d. Oct. 16, 1833, [see p. 54.]

Amos, b. May 18, 1810 ; [see pp. 63-64.]

Louisa, b. December 22, 1811 ; [m. Sylvester Eastman,] see p. 245.

Winthrop Chandler, b. February 20, 1813.

Samuel, b. August 24, 1814 ; [see p. 69.]

Ira, b. December 2, 1815, [see pp. 75-78.]

Sally, b. May 25, 1817, [see p. 93.]

Hannah, b. April 4, 1819, [see p. 239.]

James, b. October 1, 1820, d. Aug. 20, 1837.

Chase, b. January 20, 1822, [see pp. 84-85.]

Mary, b. October 28, 1823.

Susan, b. May 20, 1825, [see p. 59.]

Daniel, b. January 20, 1827, [see pp. 90-91.]

David, b. June 17, 1828, [see p. 94.]

Phebe, b. February 24, 1831, [m. Mosely M. Brooks of Franconia, lived in Woburn, Mass., d. June 4, 1870.]

[William Whitcher was a descendant of Thomas Whittier—the name formerly pronounced Whit-cher—who came to America from “Millichill part of Wiltshire,” England, Apr. 24, 1638. Thomas settled first in Salisbury, Mass., afterwards lived for a short time in Newbury, Mass., where he married Ruth Green, and shortly afterwards removed to Haverhill, Mass., where he was prominent in the early history of that town. He died in Haverhill, November 28, 1696.

CHILDREN OF THOMAS AND RUTH GREEN WHITTIER.

Mary, b. August 9, 1647.

John, b. December 23, 1649.

Ruth, b. August 1, 1651.

Thomas, b. June 12, 1653.

Susanna, b. March 27, 1656.

Nathaniel, b. August 11, 1658.

Hannah, b. September 10, 1660.

Richard, b. June 27, 1663.

Elizabeth, b. November 21, 1666.

Joseph, b. May 8, 1669.

Nathaniel, son of Thomas and Ruth Green Whittier, m. August 26, 1685, Mary, daughter of William Osgood, of Salisbury, Mass. They resided in Salisbury, Mass.

CHILDREN.

Reuben, b May 17, 1686.

Ruth, b. October, 14, 1688.

Reuben, son of Nathaniel and Mary Osgood Whittier, m. December 19, 1708, Deborah Pillsbury, of Newbury, Mass. They resided in Salisbury, Mass.

CHILDREN.

Mary, b. September 25, 1709.

Nathaniel, b. August 12, 1711.

William, b. November 20, 1714.

Reuben, b. ——— 1716.

Richard, b. ——— 1717.

Joseph, b. May 2, 1721.

Benjamin, b. May 4, 1722.

Joseph, son of Reuben and Deborah Pillsbury Whittier, m. January 13, 1743, Martha, daughter of John Evans, of Nottingham, N. H. They also resided in Salisbury, Mass.

CHILDREN.

Deborah, b. September 4, 1744.

Dorothy, b. November 30, 1745.

Sarah, b. September 18, 1747.

John, b. June 19, 1749.

Reuben, b. September 19, 1751.

Chase, b. October 6, 1753.

Joseph, b. October 31, 1755.

John, Chase and Joseph were among the first settlers of Warren, N. H., and spelled their names according to pronunciation—Whitcher—this spelling being retained by the descendants of John and Chase.

Chase Whitcher, son of Joseph and Martha Evans Whittier, m. July 6, 1777, Hannah Morrill, of Amesbury, Mass. They resided in Warren.

CHILDREN.

Levi, b. September 22, 1779, died in infancy.

Dolly, b. January 22, 1781, m. John Atwell.

William, b. May 23, 1783.

Molly, b. April 16, 1785, died unmarried.

Chase, b. Sept. 5, 1787.

Levi 2d, b. August 31, 1789, died unmarried.

Jacob. b. June 22, 1791.

Miriam, b. March 18, 1794, m. Joseph Davis Willoughby, of Holderness.

Martha, b. July 18, 1798, m. Elisha Fullam.

David, b. January 15, 1803.

The four sons of Chase and Hannah Morrill Whitcher were among the first settlers of Benton, as has already been noted, and his daughters, Dolly and Martha, also lived for some years in town.

David m. Phebe P. Smith, March 20, 1828. Their eldest son, Joseph, was born August 25, 1829. (For this family see p. 256.)

Jacob married Sarah Richardson, of Warren, and moved to Coventry where he died in 1834. Their children were all born in Coventry and were :

Levi, b. October 29, 1815, (see p. 78.)

Hazen, b. May 21, 1817, (see p. 82.)

Stephen, b. June 18, 1819.

Alonzo, b. June 8, 1821.

Lorinda, b. August 3, 1825.

Jacob, b. June 8, 1827.

Sarah Jane, b. Aug. 31, 1830.

The sixteen children of William and Mary Noyes Whitcher were all born in Benton and, as has already been noted, most of them settled in town, becoming important factors in its life.

Amos Whitcher m. Polly Young, of Lisbon, December 24, 1835. (See p. 63.)

CHILDREN.

Lucinda C., b. October 7, 1836, m. Horace W. Gordon, d. October 27, 1871.

Amarett A., b. June 23, 1840, m. Emery B. White.

Charles H., b. February 10, 1843, deceased.

Winthrop C., b., March 22, 1845.

James E., b. November 29, 1847, deceased.

Florence V., b. May 3, 1852, m. December 4, 1878,
William C. Young.

Albion G., b. August 28, 1854.

Winthrop Chandler Whitchee, son of William and Mary Noyes, m. Mrs. Mary Priest Noyes, the widow of Samuel Noyes, Jr., of Landaff, where he resided until his death, leaving four children, Moses, Ward P., Henry and Sarah. Moses was twice married, residing in Landaff until shortly before his death in May, 1902, when he removed to Lisbon. He left two daughters, one, Pheeb, the wife of Daniel J. Whitchee, of Easton, and Jean, a teacher in the schools of Quincy, Mass. Ward P. m. Pheeb Perkins, of New Hampton, and lived at Tilton and later at Lisbon where he was engaged in the insurance and drug business until his death in 1896. He left two sons, Frank P., who resides in Washington, and Chase R., a successful architect in Lisbon. Henry is a prosperous farmer in Landaff. His sons, Charles C. and John W., have been extensively engaged in the lumber business. One daughter, Mrs. H. E. Heath, resides in Ponema, and another, Mercy, with her parents. Sarah married La Fayette McConnell and resides in Landaff.

Mary, daughter of William and Mary Noyes Whitchee, m. June 1, 1841, Jason Titus of Lyman, residing in that town for many years when they removed to Lisbon where

they lived during the remainder of their lives, celebrating their golden wedding anniversary in 1891. Of their children, Charles H., Holman D., Theron W., Fred M. and Bertha May are living, and Herman P. and George W. are deceased.]

CHILDREN OF BARLTETT AND ANNA BROWN MARSTON.

Laura A., b. June 20, 1840, married George Wilson.

Wesley B., b. October 24, 1841, [deceased.]

Sarah L., b. May 18, 1844, [deceased.]

George W., b. Aug. 14, 1846, [deceased.]

Rhoda J., b. June 26, 1848, m. C. C. Hildreth.

Henry G., b. March 27, 1851.

Elvah S., b. May 3, 1853, m. A. A. Clement.

Lucy M., b. April 7, 1855, m. George Sargent.

Hosea M., b. Feb. 2, 1858, [deceased.]

May B., b. March 6, 1860, [deceased.]

Luvia E., b. April 13, 1863, m. C. W. Sawyer.

Peter Howe 2d, b. July 4, 1814. Harriett W. Tyler, his wife, b. April 4, 1814, m. October 24, 1837.

CHILDREN.

Rufus W., b. June 16, 1839.

Harriet Ellen, b. December 22, 1844.

Lucena M., b. June 10, 1846.

Samuel Whitcher m. May 4, 1840, Emily Quimby, of Lisbon.

CHILDREN.

Lydia E., b. June 22, 1841, m. William H. Polley.

Betsey S., b. February 5, 1844, m. William Kendall.

David S., b. November 30, 1846, [deceased.].

Daniel J., b. February 2, 1849.

Charles O., b. November 21, 1852.

Susan E., b. April 20, 1859, [deceased.].

CHILDREN OF JAMES J. AND FANNY MEAD PAGE.

Lavinia Farnham Mead, b. August 13, 1826.

Eliza Ann, b. October 20, 1828.

Laura Ann Whittaker, b. September 28, 1831.

James, b. February 10, 1834.

Elizabeth R., b. ———

Mary, b. ———

CHILDREN OF IRA AND LUCY ROYCE WHITCHER.

William F., b. August 10, 1845.

Mary E., b. July 17, 1847, (deceased.)

Frank, b. June 21, 1849, (deceased.)

Scott, b. Nov. 2, 1852, (deceased.)

William F. m. 1st, December 4, 1872, Jeanette M., daughter of Dr. Ellsworth Burr, of Middletown Conn. She died in Malden, Mass., Sept. 30, 1894. Their son, Burr Royce, b. New Bedford, Mass., November 6, 1878, graduated Dartmouth college 1902, Dartmouth Medical 1905, is house physician St. Luke's hospital, New Bedford, Mass. William F. m. 2d, November 4, 1896, Marietta A. Hadley, of Stoneham, Mass.]

John Brown, b. November 22, 1784, son of Caleb Brown of Bristol. Olive Colby, b. January 16, 1793, daughter of John Colby, m. January 7, 1813.

CHILDREN.

Jonas G., b. December 17, 1814, m. Angeline Whiteman.

Sally, b. October 13, 1815, m. Benjamin Cilley, of Andover.

John C., b. September 21, 1817, m. Louisa Carter, of Portland, Me.

Mary, b. February 8, 1820, m. Benjamin Cilley, of Andover.

Susan, b. March 17, 1822, m. Joseph Hutchins.

Jesse M., b. March 4, 1824, m. Emma Van Antwerp, Michigan.

Abigail S., b. February 28, 1827.

Eliza J., b. April 15, 1830, m. John Flanders.

Daniel W., b. April 18, 1833, d. June 28, 1859.

Julia Ann, b. April 18, 1835, m. Elisha Hibbard.

Jonas G. Brown, b. December 17, 1814, m. January 1838, Angeline Whiteman, b. October 5, 1814.

CHILDREN.

Marium M., b. December 23, 1838, m. Chester C. Clough, deceased.

George E., b. May 31, 1841, m. Eveline Hutchins.

Olive, b. September 1842, d. August 1843.

Clara A., b. July 8, 1847, m. November 1865, W. W. Coburn, deceased.

Cyrenia M., b. May 1, 1850, m. 1869 Ransom Coburn.

Imogene, b. September 2, 1853, m. March 17, 1880,
C. W. Cummings.

CHILDREN OF GEORGE E. AND EVELINE HUTCHINS BROWN.

Jonas N., b. September 25, 1864, m. Emma Bancroft, January 8, 1888.

Allen M., b. April 13, 1867, m. Elizabeth Titus,
April 10, 1889.

Abbie F., b. June 29, 1869, d. July 28, 1879.

Marium M., b. October 9, 1871.

C. Ida, b. March 10, 1874.

Josie L., b. September 27, 1876.

Grace Edith, b. March 31, 1881.

Joseph Hutchins, m. November 17, 1839, Susan Brown
Emerson, daughter of John and Olive Brown.

CHILDREN.

Marietta, b. October 22, 1840, m. L. W. Flanders.

Ella A., b. February 24, 1843, m. Frank Wilmot.

Jane B., b. November 18, 1846, m. Moses Clough.

Sally Ann, b. October 22, 1848, m. Moses P. Bemis.

Charles A., b. September 4, 1853, m. Emma Hardin.

Jeremiah B. Davis, b. May 7, 1803, d. June 28, 1884;
Susan Tyler, b. September 14, 1811, d. January 29,
1891; married June 1831.

CHILDREN.

Wesley B., b. August 27, 1832.

Mary A., b. March 17, 1834, m. Chas. B. Kezer.

Eliza C., March 4, 1836, m. Burton French, deceased.

Laban T., b. August 22, 1838.

Kimball T., b. September 5, 1841.

Jeremiah B., Jr., b. May 30, 1844.

Sarah W., b. October 26, 1846, deceased.

Dennis D., b. March 8, 1849.

George C., b. July 4, 1850, deceased.

Jonathan Hunkins m. Betsey Smith October 17, 1826.

CHILDREN.

Joseph Smith, b. April 21, 1828.

Harvey Augustus, b. April 29, 1830.

Thomas Hewes, b. August 17, 1832, d. June 1, 1834.

Thomas Hewes, b. August 3, 1834.

Olive Ann, b. May 30, 1837, m. James Page.

Clarissa Jane, b. July 7, 1840.

William Keyser, b. Cabot, Vt., January 5, 1797; Abigail Eastman, b. Concord, N. H., July 27, 1795; m. 1819.

CHILDREN.

Mary J., b. August 1, 1820, Northfield, N. H.

John E., b. August 17, 1822, Northfield.

Henry Eastman, b. July 3, 1824, Northfield.

Charles B., b. January 12, 1826, Northfield.

Laura, b. April 9, 1828, Coventry.

James H., b. September 25, 1830, Coventry.

CHILDREN OF GEORGE W. AND SUSAN WHITCHER MANN.

Ezra B., b. November 2, 1843.

Edward F., b. September 7, 1845.

George Henry, b. Feb. 19, 1848.

Orman L. } b. December 18, 1852.

Osman C. }

George W. Mann m. 2d, Sarah, daughter of Gad Bisbee, February 1855.

CHILDREN.

Melvin J., b. March 8, 1856.

Hosea B., b. May 27, 1858.
Susan M., b. January 3, 1860.
Minnie S., b. December 4, 1862.
Moses B., b. January 20, 1865.

CHILDREN OF CHARLES C. AND DIANA BISHOP TYLER.

Lucetta S., b. April 15, 1848, m. Anos M. Pike.
Charles W., b. October 28, 1849.
Frederick M., b. July 17, 1851.
Alfred Elmore, b. April 7, 1853.
Hannah W., b. June 26, 1855.
Byron M., b. August 12, 1858.
Susan M., b. February 22, 1860, deceased.
Dexter E., b. November 12, 1862, deceased.
Leslie G., b. November 30, 1864.
May, b. May 30, 1867.
Carrol B., b. June 3, 1869.

CHILDREN OF DANIEL AND NANCY KNIGHT WHITCHER.

Kate K., b. May 16, 1853, [deceased.]
Moses K., b. November 28, 1855, d. April 9, 1862.
Nellie G., b. October 22, 1857, m. John Gauss, of
Salem, Mass.
Lizzie R., b. July 16, 1859.
Carrie Ardelle, b. July 6, 1861.
Josie L., b. April 8, 1863.
Ira D., b. October 4, 1865, d. February 14, 1867.
Mary B. B., b. February 10, 1869, [m. William V.
Ashley.]
Dan Scott, b. November 22, 1873, d. May 17, 1878.

William Sidney, son of John E. and Mahala Flan-
ders Keyser, b. October 5, 1850.

CHILDREN OF SAMUEL AND MERAB ROYCE HOWE.

Sarah R., b. October 20, 1837 ; m. 1st Parker Swasey, Cabot, Vt., killed in Battle of Wilderness ; 2d Truman W. Gray, Cambridge, Mass.

Julia, b. February, 1839, d. 1898 ; m. 1st Rev. H. S. Norris ; 2d Rev. Fred D. Chandler.

Luthera L., b. 1840, d. 1877 ; m. 1st Henry C. Wilmot ; 2d Paul N. Meader.

Phebe A., b. 1843, d. 1903, m. Paul N. Meader.

Dorcas, b. January 31, 1845, m. Pardon W. Allen.

Fred S., b. December 1847, m. Mary Atkinson.

Royal R., b. 1849, d. 1851.

Halsey R., b. 1851, d. April 1904 ; m. 1st Martha Foster, of Bath, 2d Lilla Bisbee.

CHILDREN OF PARDON W. AND DORCAS HOWE ALLEN.

Guy L., b. 1866, d. 1868.

Linwood H., b. 1871, d. 1894.

Effie E., b. 1874.

Ward W., b. June 23, 1877.

Frank W., b. July 9, 1879, d. 1881.

CHILDREN OF FRED M. AND LAURA KEYSER TYLER.

Edna W., b. September 13 1876.

Stella C., b. February 22, 1878.

Charlena C., b. September 20, 1879.

Louis F., }
Leon E., } b. February 11, 1881.

Prescott Parker, Jr., b. November 30, 1821 ; Maria Fitzpatrick, b., November 9, 1832 ; married November 17, 1854.

CHILDREN.

Lebina H., b. November 18, 1855.

Frank B. b. August 29, 1857.

Dora A., b. August 19, 1859.

CHILDREN OF DANIEL M. AND SUSAN CLOUGH HOWE.

Kendrick L., b. March 12, 1856.

Paul M., b. July 1, 1860.

Sam, b. July 20, 1866.

Kate S., b. November 20, 1870.

William T. Torsey and Irene W., daughter of Jonathan Batchelder Davis, m. April 21, 1852.

CHILDREN.

Emerline S., b. November 12, 1854.

Amos G., b. April 21, 1861, deceased.

CHILDREN OF SAMUEL C. AND MARY SMITH ANNIS.

George W., b. June 23, 1847.

Mary Jane, b. September 22, 1849, deceased.

John S., b. August 12, 1851, deceased.

Milo H., b. May 16, 1853.

Anna, b. May 10, 1856.

Alonzo, b. July 5, 1858, deceased.

Carrie, b. November 16, 1861, m. Martin L. Mitchell, of Belfast, Me.

Milo H. Annis and Emerline S., daughter of William T. and Irene W. Davis Torsey, m. December 26, 1874.

CHILDREN.

Ella Carrie, b. October 28, 1890, d. August 24, 1891.

Emma, b. October 10, 1896.

Darius K. Davis, m. Susan E., daughter of Daniel and

Phebe Eaton Howe, ——— 1853.

CHILDREN.

Addie, Dariah, b. November 12, 1854, m. O. D. Eastman, M. D.

James Page m. Olive Ann Hunkins June 4, 1863.

CHILDREN.

Ella Misselle, b. September 12, 1864, m. Frank H. Pope.

Norman J., b. November 13, 1866.

Ernest Tilden, b. May 18, 1876.

CHILDREN OF NOAH C. AND HANNAH JESSEMAN HUTCHINS.

Eveline, b. June 4, 1847, m. George E. Brown, September 9, 1863.

Salmon J., b. October 13, 1849, m. Jennie, daughter of William Hardin.

Caleb Wells, b. October 29, 1826; m. 1st, November 11, 1849, Martha H., daughter of Sylvester Gordon, b. September 11, 1828, d. February 21, 1871; m. 2d Lucy Ann, daughter of Sylvester Gordon, b. January 22, 1827, d. December 20, 1899.

CHILDREN.

Helen A., b. June 10, 1849, m., September 7, 1871, George C. Clifford, d. November 8, 1897.

Ella G., b. November 11, 1857, m., November 11, 1877, Edwin U. Hamlett.

Herbert E., b. November 10, 1861, m., November 19, 1882, Ida A. McGinnen; d. May 8, 1899.

Scott, b. October 29, 1865; m., January 6, 1898, Belle M. Hadlock.

Addie Bell, b. September 11, 1867, d. January 5, 1869.

George Wells, b. Benton, March 18, 1828, d. July 29, 1905. Caroline Morse, b. Haverhill, May 24, 1830, d. May 8, 1905, m. October 14, 1849.

CHILDREN.

Albinus, M., b. July 17, 1850.

Stella E., b. July 6, 1854.

Flavius M., b. November 20, 1860.

Frank E., b. February 16, 1863.

Arthur G., b. September 29, 1867.

Fred P., b. August 31, 1870.

Fred P., son of Edward L. and Emma L. Cox, b. November 9, 1880.

Charles, son of Jeremiah B., Jr., and Melissa Davis, b. September 12, 1881.

Scott, son of Dennis and Myra Cooley Davis, b. March 24, 1881.

Ernest P., son of Edward E. and Emma C. Humphrey, b. July 12, 1881.

Nettie J., daughter of Edward M. and Josephine True, b. August 17, 1881.

Georgie E., daughter of Sylvester and Emma Wheeler, b. September 30, 1881.

William H., son of Edward and Victoria Gilman, b. September 14, 1881.

Fennette, daughter of Charles and Anna Shaw, b. June 13, 1866.

Lillian B., daughter of Benjamin and Mary Gilchrist, b. June 1, 1886.

Alexander, son of George and Rebecca Wilson, b. November 13, 1886.

Carrie M., daughter of J. F. and Luvia B. Foss, b. August 2, 1887.

Frank P., son of Gardner and Annie Hurlburt, b. August 3, 1887.

Horace F., son of David F. and Lillian Richardson, b. October 7, 1887.

Harold, son of David F. and Lillian Richardson, b. March 28, 1889.

Herbert C., son of Lewis E. and Gertrude French, b. January 9, 1890.

Ray M., son of William Sims and Minnie Sarah Nutter, b. August 31, 1890.

George, son of Murdock and Mary McLeod, b. March 20, 1891.

Edith C., daughter of Sam and Cora White Howe, b. June 20, 1891.

Lester, son of Fred E. and Delia E. Whiteman, b. July 23, 1891.

Karl Gile, son of Horace R. and Blanche Spooner, b. August 31, 1891.

Robert F., son of Harry H. and Nora B. Elliott, b. April 25, 1892.

DEATHS.

Obadiah Eastman, Esquire, January 10, 1812.

Samuel Jackson, January 29, 1813.

Elizabeth Eastman, January 30, 1813.

Moses Eastman, March 6, 1813.

Jesse Tyler, April 5, 1813.

Lucy, daughter of Kimball Tyler, May 4, 1813.

Asa, son of Peter Eastman, August 14, 1814.

Abigail, daughter of Peter Eastman, May 20, 1813.

Ruth, wife of Obadiah Eastman, October 12, 1814.

Ebenezer Eastman, March 3, 1813.

Jeremiah Jackson, June 12, 1817.

The town records down to the year 1881 are barren of necrology, except the few foregoing records which appear in the earliest book. Those recorded since and including 1881 are as follows :

Mrs. Philena Hutchins, June 18, 1881, ae. 93.

George Henry Stowe, son of William C. and Eunice Brooks Stowe, December 29, 1881, ae. 31.

Mary L., wife of Jeremiah B. Davis, Jr., August 12, 1881, ae. 26.

Allie A., wife of Kendrick L. Howe, February 28, 1882, ae. 17.

George E. Shaw, April 16, 1885, ae. 44.

Nelson B. Lindsay, December 13, 1886, ae. 62.

Lyman Bemis, Jr., January 1887, ae. 47.

Matilda K. Lindsay, April 4, 1887, ae. 61.

Lucius Hutchins, September 18, 1887, ae. 77.

Israel Flanders, December 10, 1887, ae. 87.

Martha Norris, October 6, 1888, ae. 82.

Merab, wife of Samuel Howe, November 24, 1888, ae. 76.

Jane King, May 12, 1889, ae. 63.

David M. Norris, May 24, 1889, ae. 74.

Herbert, son of Halsey R. Howe, December 17, 1889,
ae. 11.

Mary J., wife of Alonzo Spooner, December 29, 1889,
ae. 49.

James Norris, December 27, 1890, ae. 77.

Susan K., wife of Jeremiah B. Davis, January 29, 1891,
ae. 79.

John O. Keyser, February 14, 1891, ae. 69.

John Wilson, May 4, 1891, ae. 79.

Georgie A., wife of William W. Eastman, April 19,
1892, ae. 31.

Phebe M. Gilman, June 2, 1892, ae. 51.

Mary F., wife of Samuel C. Annis, August 27, 1892, ae.
67.

Alantha, wife of Spafford W. Cowan, November 24,
1892, ae. 73.

Eliza L. Keyser, June 22, 1893, ae. 78.

Laura E., wife of F. M. Tyler, October 16, 1893, ae. 36.

William T. Torsey, March 6, 1894, ae. 65.

Polly, wife of Israel Flanders, July 27, 1894, ae. 96.

Sally Bailey, wife of Samuel A. Mann, April 20, 1895,
ae. 85.

Alden Cooley, March 26, 1896, ae. 75.

John E. Keyser, January 7, 1896, ae. 73.

William Hardin, December 10, 1896, ae. 85.

Hannah Torsey, wife of William T. Torsey, July 30, 1897, ae. 73.

Carrie S., wife of Byron M. Tyler, August 20, 1897, ae. 37.

William H. Annis, December 30, 1897, ae. 65.

Prescott Parker, June 13, 1898, ae. 76.

Samuel C. Annis, March 15, 1899, ae. 83.

Samuel Howe, February 13, 1899, ae. 86.

Charles T. Collins, May 10, 1899, ae. 68.

Myrtie E., wife of John Wallace, February 26, 1900, ae. 26.

. Charles B. Keyser, March 24, 1900, ae. 74.

Susan E., wife of George H. Clark, April 26, 1900, ae. 41.

George W. Mann, January 6, 1901, ae. 79.

Ann R. Hutchins, February 9, 1901, ae. 84.

Lydia A. Merrill, February 11, 1901, ae. 64.

John C. Speed, March 13, 1901, ae. 64.

John S. Annis, May 16, 1903, ae. 50.

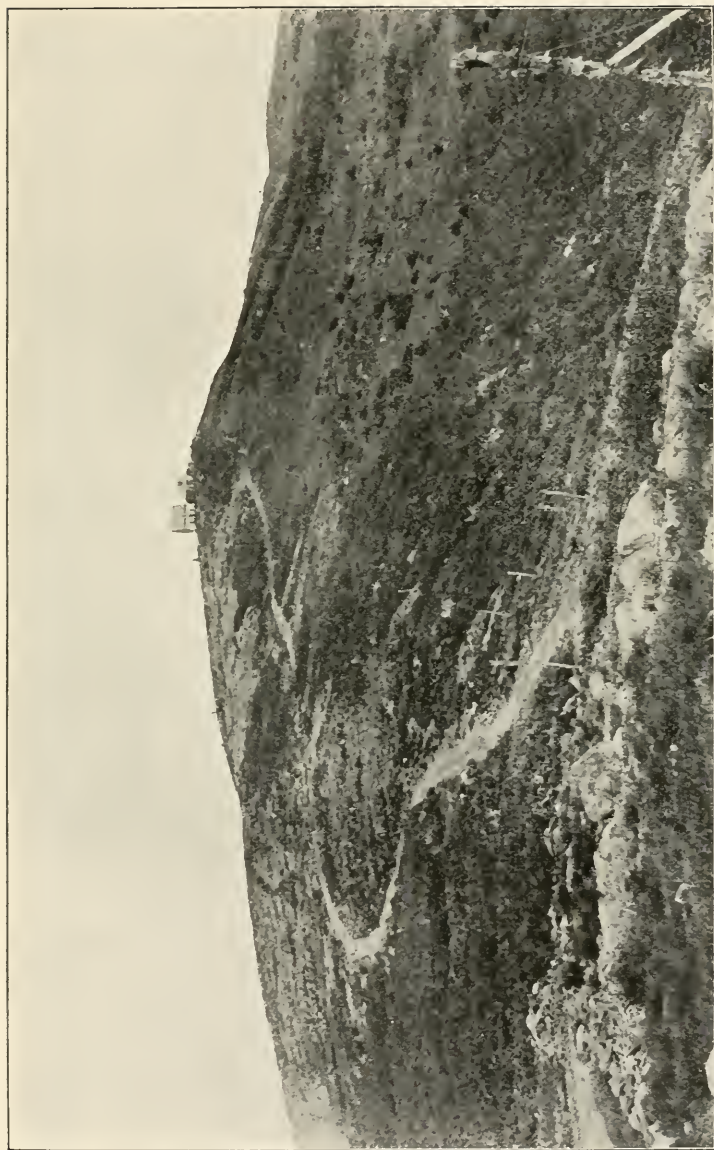
CHAPTER XII.

A FUTURE SUMMER RESORT.

It is a little difficult to explain why Benton has never become a summer resort town. It certainly has every natural advantage. It is a mountain town, Moosilauke, Black, Sugar Loaf and Owls Head, or Blueberry mountains covering nearly its entire territory. The view from Moosilauke is one in which the combination of beauty and grandeur is unrivaled in the entire mountain region of New Hampshire. A small hotel was erected on its summit in 1860, which has since been enlarged, and in most seasons is well patronized, but the great mass of tourists pass it by, continuing their journey to the White and Franconia mountain region. The summit is a little difficult of access, there being but one carriage road, that leading from Warren, with foot paths and bridle paths from North Woodstock and North Benton. Moosilauke, gem of the mountain region, will sometime, however, come into its own and its glories will have the wide recognition they so richly merit. Within the last three years Mr. L. H. Parker has erected a commodious hotel near the base of the mountain on the North Benton side which is already attracting deserved attention and patronage, and which can hardly fail to become a popular resort. But the charm of Benton scenery lies along the road which skirts the northern edge of the town. This road overlooks the picturesque valley of the Wild Ammonoosuc and for a distance of five miles gives views of Moosilauke, the Kinsman range in Easton, with Lafayette rising in the dis-

tance beyond, views that for rare beauty rival any to be found in the state. Bethlehem, Whitefield, Jefferson, Jackson, Sugar Hill and Franconia have been discovered and their discovery utilized. Benton awaits its discoverer. He is coming, and the farms of North Benton which have not as yet grown up to forest will in the not distant future become the summer homes of statesmen, diplomats, financiers, authors, artists, poets and divines. Why not? The town has every natural advantage of elevation, scenic grandeur and beauty, and location. It has a magnificent destiny.

The view from the summit of Moosilauke must be seen to be appreciated. It surpasses that obtained from any other New England peak, since its 5000 feet of elevation is to a large extent isolated, with no nearby neighbors of like elevation to make the prospect a great billowy sea of mountains like that seen from the summit of Mount Washington. There is a beauty in the broad flat area of the summit at first sight seeming so desolate and barren, which attracts when one comes to give it a little attention. In the summer sunlight it is green with mosses and lichens, thirty kinds of mosses, while harebells and mountain cranberries with their million of flowers make it seem like a garden with a green border of firs and spruces and birches below. And then, except for the singing of the purple finches, snow birds and the mountain whistler, which are now and then heard on a summer day—the splendid silence. During a period of a quarter of a century there were few more frequent visitors to the summit of Moosilauke than William Little, the historian of Warren. None have ever studied with more painstaking care the panorama of scenic beauty spread out on every hand, and none ever more thoroughly appreciated it. Take this, his description of a sunset view :



CARRIAGE ROAD AND HOTEL, SUMMIT OF MOOSILAUKE, 5,006 FEET ABOVE THE SEA.

The sun is going down, and it is cold you say. Let us travel with our eyes around the whole horizon.

Look over to the south first. How the ruby light is gleaming on Lake Winnepisseogee, "The Smile of the Great Spirit;" see that tall shaft just on the horizon beyond. It is Bunker Hill monument standing "down by the sea." Carry your eye round to the west: Mt. Belknap is first, then Wachusett in Massachusetts, the Uncanoonucks, and to the right of them, Jo English, Kearsage, Mt. Cardigan, Monadnock, and Croydon mountains. Close by is Water-nomee, Cushman, Kineo, Mount Carr, Stinson mountain in Rumney, Smart's mountain in Dorchester, Mt. Cube in Orford, Sentinel mountain in Warren, and Piermont mountain.

Across the Connecticut river to the southwest is Ascutney, and beyond it, further down, is Saddle mountain, Graylock, and Berkshire hills, in Massachusetts. Then wheeling round towards the north are Killington peaks, sharp and needle like, shooting up above the neighboring hills; farther north and directly west, is Camel's Hump, unmistakable in its appearance; then Mt. Mansfield, towering above the thousand other summits of the Green mountains.

Above and beyond them, in the farthest distance, are counted nine sharp peaks of the Adirondacks in New York, Mt. Marcy higher than all the rest. To-morrow morning at sunrise you will see the fog floating up from Lake Champlain this side of them.

In the northwest is Jay peak on Canada line, and to the right of it you see a hundred summits rising from the table lands of Canada. Then there is the notch at Memphremagog lake, Owl's head by Willoughby lake, and Monadnock in northern Vermont.

Close down is Black mountain, Owl's head of New Hampshire, and Blueberry, Hogback and Sugarloaf mountains in Benton. Then north is Cobble hill in Landaff; Gardner mountain in Bath and Lyman, and Stark Peaks away up in northern Coos.

To the right, and stretching away in the northeast in Maine, you see a long rolling range of hills, the water-shed between the Atlantic ocean and the St. Lawrence river, said by Agassiz to be the oldest land in the world. East of these is the white summit of the Aziscoos, by Umbagog lake.

Nearest and to the north-east is Mt. Kinsman, the Profile mountain; and above and over them Mt. Lafayette, its sides scarred and jagged where a hundred torrents pour down in spring, its peaks splintered by lightning. South of this and near by, are the Hay-

stacks. Over and beyond the latter are the Twins, more than five thousand feet high; and just to the right of them Mt. Washington, dome shaped and higher than all the rest. Around this monarch of mountains, as if attendant upon him, are Mts. Adams and Jefferson, sharp peaks on the left, and Mt. Moriah, the Imp, Mt. Madison and Monroe, Mt. Webster, the Willey Notch precipice, Double head, and a hundred other great mountains standing to the right and front.

A little to the south is Carrigan, 4,800 feet high, black and sombre, most attractive and most dreaded, not a white spot nor a scar upon it; covered with dark woods like a black pall, symmetrical and beautiful, the eye turns away to return to it again and again. Mt. Pigwacket in Conway, its neighbor, always seem gray in the hazy distance, Chocorua rises farther south, and Welch mountain, Osceola, Whiteface, Ossipee, Agmenticus, on the sea coast; Mt. Prospect and Red hill fill up the circle.

This view to the north and east is the most magnificent mountain view to be had on this side of the continent. The most indifferent observer cannot look upon it without feeling its grandeur and sublimity.

Forty ponds and lakes are sparkling under the setting sun. Two in Woodstock, the little tarn in the meadow where the Asquamchumake rises; Stinson pond in Rumney, Lake Winnepisseogee, Winnesquam, Long bay, Smith's pond, Squam lake, Mascoma lake, two ponds in Dorchester, Baker ponds in Orford, Indian pond, Fairlee Pond, and numerous others in Vermont; Tarleton lakes, Wachipauka pond, by which Rogers and his rangers camped, Kelley, and Horse-shoe ponds; two others in Haverhill, Beaver meadow ponds in Benton, and many more with names unknown; how they all gleam and glisten, and look like silvery sheens.

The Pemigewasset, the Asquamchumake, the Ammonoosuc, and the Connecticut, from their wooded valleys are flashing in the setting sun.

The villages with their church spires are gleaming. See Bradford, Haverhill Corner, East and North Haverhill, Newbury, Woodsville and Wells River, down there in the Connecticut valley. A hundred spires are shining on the hills of Vermont. Landaff and Bath are lighted up, and Warren, Wentworth, Campton, Franconia, Lake Village, and Laconia all come distinctly out as the sun goes down.

Now see the sun just touching the Adirondacks beyond Lake



TIP TOP HOUSE, MOUNT MOOSILAUKE.



PARKER HOUSE, BASE OF MOOSILAUKE ON TUNNEL STREAM.

Champlain in the west. There is a rosy blush on the White mountains, the Green mountains are golden, while all the peaks behind which the sun is going down are bathed in a sea of glorious light. How it changes! Darkness creeps over the eastern peaks, the Green mountains are going into shadows, the vermillion, pink, ruby, and gold of the Adirondacks, is fading away, and the stars are coming out.

But look! there is a silver line on the eastern horizon. 'Tis the moon rising. But Luna don't come from behind the hills. Her upper limb as she creeps up is distant twice her diameter from the land horizon. That bright band twixt moon and earth is the ocean. It is a sight seldom seen from New Hampshire's mountains.

The view is *the* grand thing of Moosehillock. But if it should happen to be cloudy, as is frequently the case, there is much of interest about the top of the mountain. Garnets an inch in diameter, with perfect faces are found by the carriage road, forty rods from the house. The best tourmalines in New Hampshire are also obtained in the same locality. Down in the Tunnel are magnificent quartz crystals. On the south peak is a curious furrow. Mr. James Clement says it was undoubtedly plowed by an iceberg drifting from the north-east to the south-west, when New Hampshire mountains were under the ocean. No person can fail to notice it. "Jobildunc" ravine where the Asquamauke leaps down a thousand feet at an angle of 80 degrees, is much visited. The Seven Cascades between the two peaks of the mountain on Gorge brook, are also well worth a visit. The stream descends at a sharp angle eight hundred feet over a series of steps, and after a great rain is a most magnificent sight.

One of these days the Moosilauke Railroad Co. will utilize its charter and build its road from Glencliffe Station on the Boston & Maine to the summit of Moosilauke and a new chapter in the history of this mountain town will then begin.

CHAPTER XIII.

SOME MORE THINGS.

From data which have been furnished the author by Hon. Ezra S. Stearns, of Fitchburg, Mass., it is evident that the grantees of the town of Coventry were residents of the ancient towns of Stamford and Norwalk, Connecticut, the most of them living in Stamford and many in that parish of the town which is now New Canaan. Mr. Stearns in the course of his historical research and work on the histories of Fitchburg, Mass., and Rindge, N. H., became familiar with the early records of these early Connecticut towns, and a comparison of the names of the grantees, as given in the charter of Coventry, with names he has found in the Stamford and Norwalk records settles the question of the residence and identity of grantees beyond all reasonable doubt.

Theophilus Fitch, son of John Fitch, and second cousin of Governor Thomas Fitch, lived during his lifetime in Norwalk, which adjoined Stamford until new towns were created by division of older towns. He was a magistrate from 1754 to 1776. In 1754 he was chosen a deputy to the General Assembly from the town of Norwalk, and was apparently a prominent man of his time. He had ten children born in Norwalk, 1737-1758.

John Fansher (more commonly called Fancher) lived in Stamford, m., November 17, 1736, Eunice Bouton.

John Fancher, Jr., son of John and Eunice, b. July 15, 1737, lived in Stamford.

William Fancher, son of John and Eunice Fancher, b.

November 13, 1739; m. in New Canaan Parish, January 2, 1776, Sarah Smith.

Eliphalet Sealey lived in Stamford, m., December 10, 1724, Sarah Holley. He had eight children, and among them Eliphalet, Jr., Wix and Sylvanus.

Wix Sealey, son of Eliphalet and Sarah, m., November 4, 1756, Mary St. John, and probably settled in New Canaan.

Eliphalet Sealey, Jr., b. in Stamford April 10, 1730, m., May 10, 1750, Sarah Scrivner.

Sylvanus Sealey, son of Eliphalet and Sarah, b. November 17, 1738, m., April 7, 1758, Rebecca Tuttle.

Obadiah Sealey, son of Obadiah, b. May 8, 1728, m., May 10, 1750, Abigail Crissey, a sister of Samuel Crissey, grantee, and lived in Stamford.

Samuel Crissey, son of Nathaniel and Hannah (Hoit) Crissey, b. in Stamford March 28, 1734, m., April 5, 1759, Hannah Buxton.

Daniel Stevens, son of Thomas Stevens, b. March 30, 1711, m., February 1, 1734, Judy Webb, and lived in Stamford.

Admer Stevens, son of Thomas, and brother of Daniel, b. November 13, 1720, m., November 27, 1750, Mary Tuttle, lived in Stamford.

Obadiah Stevens, son of Thomas, and brother of Daniel and Admer, b. March 29, 1707, m. Deborah Jessop.

Obadiah Stevens, Jr., son of Obadiah, b. May 17, 1745, m., February 4, 1770, Sarah Skelding.

Joshua Ambler, son of Stephen and Deborah (Hoit) Ambler, b. September 9, 1723, m., April 6, 1749, Bethia Weed.

Joseph Ambler, son of Stephen, and brother of Joshua, b. October 4, 1726, m., October 17, 1751, Elizabeth Reed.

Joseph, Samuel, Benjamin and Isaac Weed were brothers, and were sons of Benjamin Weed. of Stamford.

Peter, Abraham, Nathaniel and Enos Weed were brothers, and were sons of Abraham Weed.

Hezekiah and Reuben Weed were brothers, and were sons of Daniel Weed.

Sylvanus Weed was a son of Jonas Weed.

There were many Hoyts in Stamford, and several bearing the names of Ebenezer, Silas and Nathaniel, so that it cannot be distinguished which were Coventry grantees.

Joseph, Deodate and Hezekiah Davenport were brothers, sons of John and Sarah Bishop Davenport, and grandsons of Rev. John Davenport, all of Stamford.

Gideon Leeds, son of Cary Leeds, b. May 4, 1716.

There was more than one Ebenezer, and more than one James Schofield of an age possible for them to have been grantees, and the same may be said of the Smiths, Ephraim, James, Jesse and Charles, so that it is difficult to identify which particular Ebenezer, Ephraim, etc. was grantee.

Zebulon Husted lived in Stamford from and after 1733, and while the name of Peter does not appear he was doubtless one of the Husted family.

There was a St. John family in Stamford, though the name of David does not appear on the records.

There were four John Bates of a probable age.

James Bates, son of Nathaniel, b. 1734.

• Nathaniel Loundsbury, son of Henry, b. 1715.

Theophilus Hanford was probably one of a numerous New Canaan family of that name.

Joseph Lockwood, son of Joseph, b. June 30, 1731.

Thomas Seymour, Jr., lived in New Canaan, m., November 24, 1761, Sarah Wescott.

Daniel Benedict was of the numerous New Canaan family of that name.

John Battes was probably Bates and one of the four Johns previously named.

Nathaniel Waterbury, son of Jonathan, b. April 26, 1724, m. Rebecca Holley and lived in Stamford.

Josiah Waterbury was probably one of the same family which was numerous in Stamford though his name does not appear in the records.

Samuel, Jehiel and Eleazer Bouton were of Stamford, Samuel and Jehiel were brothers, and sons of Nathaniel Waterbury, and Eleazer was a son of Eleazer.

Of the 61 grantees named, aside from the officials who were friends of Governor Wentworth, all except Matthew Fountain, Adonijah Brown and James Banks are accounted for as residents of Stamford or Norwalk or New Canaan, and a more careful search might result in finding the names of these. If these grantors sent one of their number to examine the township which had been granted them the fact that none of them settled on their new possessions may be easily explained.

Jonathan Welch, father of Jonathan Welch, came to the High Street section of Coventry from Massachusetts about 1790 and was one of the early settlers. A few years later he left home one day taking the road which led to the north part of the town through the Notch between Black mountain and Moosilauke, and was never seen or heard from afterwards. The boy Jonathan was brought up in the family of Obadiah Eastman. This road after having been abandoned for nearly a century, except as it was used in the winter for logging and hauling lumber from a sawmill on Tunnel stream

to the Warren Summit railroad station, was rebuilt by private parties in 1903, and at the session of the legislature in 1905 was made a state road. It will doubtless, in the future, be one of the favorite mountain roads. By this road the Parker House is only about five miles distant from the Warren Summit, or Glenclyff railroad station.

The wife of Samuel Page, and mother of James J. and Daniel D., was Submit Jeffers, a native of Hampstead, N. H. Stephen Jeffers of the same town had come to Coventry about 1810, and it was through his influence that Samuel Page who had settled first in Haverhill from Haverhill, Mass., about 1811, came to Coventry about 1816.

Samuel Page reared a large family of children, Samuel, Caleb, James J., Sarah Ann, David, Sybil, Daniel D., Elvirah C., Joshua, John and Mary. Daniel D. married in 1842 Charlotte A. Balyen, who was born in Enfield, but who had moved with her parents to Hinsdale when quite young. Their children were: Joshua, b. September 4, 1843; John S., b. October 10, 1846; George C., b. August 28, 1849; Emma C., b. 1851; Frank, b. February 23, 1854; William B., b. July 3, 1856; Harriet E. b. April 1, 1859; Herman H., b. May 3, 1862; Harry E., b. March 31, 1867.

Nathan Mead, who settled in Coventry in what was known as the Page district, was a native of Connecticut. He served the patriot cause in the War of the Revolution, and at its close married Mary King and removed to Peacham, Vt. He came to Coventry in 1802 where he cleared up a large farm and raised a large family. One of his

daughters, Fanny, married James J. Page, and two of his sons, William and Moses, were prominent citizens until their removal from town.

Major Samuel Mann, father of George W. Mann, who came to Coventry in 1835, was descended from Richard Mann, b. in Cornwall, England, emigrated to America and settled in Plymouth, Mass., in 1645, m. Rebecca, daughter of Elder William Brewster.

Richard Mann, son of Richard, b. in Plymouth, Mass., February 5, 1652, m. Elizabeth Southworth.

Nathaniel Mann, son of Richard J., b. in Scituate, Mass., October 27, 1693, m. Mary Root, resided in Hebron, Conn.

John Mann, son of Nathaniel, b. in Scituate, Mass., November 20, 1720, m. Margaret, sister of Rev. Samuel Peters D. D.

Matthew Mann, son of John, b. in Hebron, Conn., December 20, 1741, m. Hannah Moody. He settled in Orford about 1765 with his brother John. He died in Orford in 1825.

Samuel Mann, son of Matthew, b. in Orford in 1773. He married Mary Howe, of Landaff, and resided in that town until he removed to Coventry.

Peter Howe and Daniel Howe, the sons of Peter Howe, a Revolutionary soldier of Landaff, were known during the last thirty or forty years of their long lives as "Uncle Peter," and "Uncle Daniel." They were seldom spoken of in any other way, and their farms are still known as the "Uncle Peter" and "Uncle Daniel" farms. They

were quiet, substantial, God fearing men, and their hustling, active, energetic, talkative helpmeets were known as "Aunt Daniel" and Aunt Peter." The latter for years was the midwife in nearly all maternity cases for miles about and was famed for her skill and success. Hospitable, charitable, neighborly, thrifty, she was indeed "Aunt" to the entire neighborhood. "Aunt Daniel" was famed for her excellence as a cook, and was also as famous for her apologies concerning the quality of her food. Away back in the forties she had on one occasion invited the Rev. H. H. Hartwell to supper. "Aunt Daniel" was a devout Methodist, a typical Martha, who believed nothing too good for her minister. She made careful and elaborate preparation, and when at last her guest was seated at a table laden with good things, she began: "Now Brother Hartwell, I'm sorry, but really I haven't anything here fit to eat." "All right Sister Howe," said her guest, "I'm not particular, so just get me a bowl of bread and milk." "Aunt Daniel" protested, but the clergyman insisted, and made his supper on bread and milk.

Peter Howe, father of Peter and Daniel, came to Landaff in 1791 from Bradford where he had settled after the War of the Revolution, purchasing land for a homestead from Simeon Eastman for £100 lawful money.

Benton in 1905 is in point of population one of the small towns of the state. Some sections which were formerly settled and occupied by the owners of farms have been abandoned. In the High Street neighborhood the families have dwindled to two, and the same may be said for the Page district. A section of the Meadows which had become depopulated is now, however, one of the best farming sections in town, the new comers, for the most part thrifty French Canadians,

having erected substantial new buildings and greatly improved the run out farms. A school house has been erected, and the children of the district are being given that of which their parents are destitute, a knowledge of letters. In the north part of the town, except on the road leading from Bath and Haverhill line to Tunnel Stream and the Parker House, and on Howe hill, the farms are for the most part unoccupied, but those still cultivated are in a better state of cultivation than in former times, and the value of farm products has not materially decreased. The decay of the lumber industry has not been wholly an unmixed evil. There are better farms and better farmers than ever before, and there are those who make farming pay. A well conducted creamery gives a ready market for milk, and farm products find a ready sale. The town has good roads, mails twice a day, free rural delivery in the morning, and the regular mail through the post office in the evening. The post office and country store in the "Hollow" and the meeting house where religious services are regularly held furnish, as of old, social and religious centers; two schools are maintained under the town system aside from that on the Meadows, and political conditions still continue strenuous and interesting. If anyone doubts this let him attend a Benton town meeting. Benton may be small, but there are those who love the old town, and are confident of her future.

ADDENDA.

Gilbert P. Wright, son of Abijah Wright, b. in Hebron, July 18, 1815, d. July 20, 1888; m., 1841, Phebe Mars-

ton, daughter of Jonathan and Phebe Howe Marston, b. Coventry, March 7, 1823.

CHILDREN.

Russell W., b. April 22, 1842, deceased.

Ellen H., b. February 13, 1844, deceased.

Jonathan M., b. August 30, 1845, deceased.

David L., b. April 19, 1847.

Phebe A., b. May 12, 1849.

Gilbert P., b. December 27, 1850.

Newell C., b. November 21, 1852.

Charles W., b. July 11, 1855.

Ira B., b. October 1, 1861.

Mary B., b. July 19, 1863.

William R., b. February 11, 1867.

ERRATA.

Page 4, 8th line, for "David" Stevens read "Daniel."

Page 4, 14th line, for Samuel "Cressey" read "Crissey."

Page 28, 16th line, for "Nathaniel" Goodall Howe read "Ira."

Page 44, 5th line from bottom, for "Augustine" Coburn read "Augustus."

Page 47, 11th line, for "Asa" Smith read "Ara."

Page 63, 11th line, for "fourth" read "third."

Page 68, 1st line, for "checquered" read "chequered."

Page 71, 11th line for "thrice" read "twice."

Page 71, 3rd line from bottom, for "Nathan" Howe read "Nathaniel."

Page 79, 9th line, for "Edwin" Tyler read "Alfred."

Page 85, 14th line, for "Moses W." Tyler read "Moses K."

Page 95, 15th line, also 7th line from bottom, for "William" Carpenter read "Moses."

Page 96, 1st line, erase "Jr." after name of Charles Carpenter.

Page 104, 4th line, for "Frank C." Parker read "Frank B."

Page 105, 8th line, for "Dennison" D. Davis read "Dennis."

Page 109, 4th line, for "John C." Davis read "John K."

Page 110, 4th line, for "1860" read "1870."

Page 110, 9th line, for "Benton" read "Boston."

Page 115, 13th line from bottom, Leslie Tyler resides in Medford, Mass.

Page 117, 15th line, for Fred M. "Clark" read "Tyler."

Page 117, 15th line, for Ida "Tyler" read "Clark."

Page 156, 21st line, for Nathaniel "Horne" read "Howe."

Page 215, 4th line from bottom, for "1886" read "1864."

Page 257, 27th line, for October "19" read October "29."

Page 270, 10th line, add after the word "Jonathan" the words "and Lydia."

Page 271, 17th line, for "Slyvester" read "Sylvester."

Page 287, 11th line, for "Richard J." read "Richard, Jr."

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